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CompuServe Page EBB-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
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1. EBB Instructions
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5. Shopper's Guide Classifieds

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CompuServe Page EBB-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/EBB
1. July 1985 Advertisers
2. June 1985 Advertisers
3. May 1985 Advertisers

Editorial Articles/Reviews

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CompuServe Page EBB-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION
1. July Hardware Listings
2. July Software Listings
3. July New Product Listings

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CompuServe Page EBB-70
SHOPPER'S GUIDE
1. About Shopper's Guide
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Online Today Electronic Edition provides daily-updated computer and information industry news, coverage of CompuServe services, commentary, computer product reviews and more. To access the Electronic Edition, type GO OLT at any CompuServe prompt.

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DEAR READER

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BPA Membership (Selected Market Audit Division) applied for October 1984.

Every Wednesday evening, a teacher is "on duty" in the Science Education Forum on CompuServe to field questions about homework and offer suggestions for science fair projects. Also in that forum is a "Lab Notebook" section, an online collection of experiments for use at home and in the classroom. The "Science Updates" section offers concise summaries of scientific advancements. And those who are seeking a science or education-related position will find leads in the "Job Bank."

The activity in this forum is one example of how teachers, students, parents and researchers alike are using videotex for educational enrichment. They also find opportunities for online learning in information/research databases, news services, online instructional programs, educational games and computer resource materials.

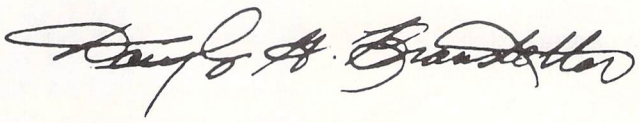
Learning opportunities extend beyond those products designed for educational uses. In a broad sense, the CompuServe Information Service is actually a series of learning connections between users who access the system to gain knowledge, trade facts and offer advice on a range of topics, according to Cindy Silvani-Lacey, CompuServe's manager of educational services.

Contributing Editor Carole Houze Gerber explores these "learning connections" in this month's cover story, beginning on page 14. Gerber, a former educator herself, has written numerous magazine articles on the subject of computers in education. Her latest book, *Turn Your Kid Into a Computer Genius*, was published by E.P. Dutton. She is currently working on a children's book about computer ethics for Franklin Watts Publishers.

* * *

Starting with this issue, *Online Today* includes a business news section, beginning on page 19. The editorial emphasis of the section will be on videotex products of interest to business people. User application studies as well as in-depth features on business-related products available on CompuServe will be incorporated into the section.

A major business story this month is about the new CompuServe Information Service with an Executive Service option. A redesigned menu system, Quick Reference Words and a new FIND command are among the enhancements to the Information Service. Subscribers who select the Executive Service option receive additional benefits, such as access to Ticker Retrieval, Disclosure II, SuperSite and the Executive News Service.



Douglas G. Branstetter
Editor

LETTERS

Reviews of Apple Products

Mr. Mau's reply to Ken Schneider's complaint about the dearth of reviews of Apple products in the June *Online Today* was interesting. It seems that you review only products that are submitted to you by the manufacturer.

Though this policy may be less expensive for you, it limits the service you provide to your readers. Companies that wish to use you to promote their products will submit those items to you for review. Those companies that do not wish to use you for promotion, or do not need you for promotion, will not have their products reviewed because they have not submitted them to you.

As an owner of an Apple computer, I resent this approach.

Samuel I. Miles, M.D.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Hospital's Use of Videotex

I was recently astonished to have been given your June issue by a colleague, in which I am quoted in the article "Hospital Transmits Records Via Videotex." Not only is the article incorrect, but I neither spoke to anyone from your magazine nor have I given anyone permission to publish such erroneous information.

The quotations were complete fabrications; Vanderbilt University does not transmit patient records via satellite. We do, however, transmit certain medical conferences to subscribing hospitals by satellite.

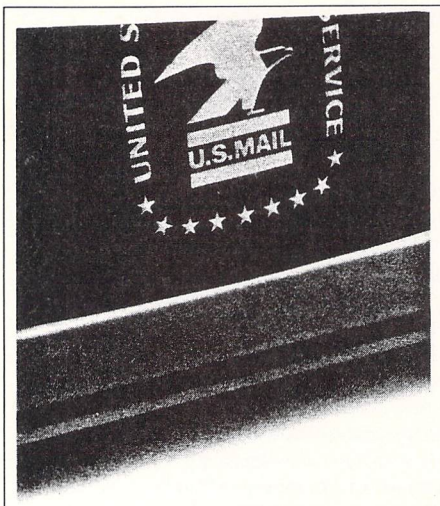
I consider the practice of writing such fiction, calling it fact, and quoting an individual not spoken to, to be unprofessional, at the very least.

Dennis K. Wentz, M.D.
Associate Dean
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tenn.

Computer-specific Forums

As a beneficiary of thousands of hours of online expertise from fellow members of four computer-specific forums on CompuServe, I enjoyed Alex Krislov's June cover story.

I have an addition to your description of the group projects section of the IBM Novice Forum, though, because you omitted the names of two of the co-



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authors of the program AUTOSIG. In addition to Vern Buerg and Frank Lipschutz, the authors include Howard Benner and Don Watkins.

What amazes me about this group project — quite apart from the fact that the co-authors have never met or even spoken, but communicate solely through CompuServe — is the tremendous support provided. Not only are problems solved and bugs fixed, but ideas for new features from any forum member are incorporated into updated versions of the program.

AUTOSIG, also known as ATO, is not only superior to commercial communications programs for use on CompuServe, but in its ongoing development it has forged a community of satisfied users and collaborators on the IBM Novice Forum.

Joan Friedman
New Haven, Conn.

Labor Unions and Telecommuting

In the May issue of *Online Today*, I read an article on the Association of Electronic Cottagers that states the AFL/CIO is putting forth efforts to ban telecommuting. In the June issue article, "French Union Strikes Against Work-at-Home," it describes labor unions in France speaking out against high-tech, at-home workers.

The labor unions, in general, seemed to be opposed to these telecommuters, because the shift toward technologically-oriented jobs may make their jobs less competitive as far as salaries and benefits.

If legislation is passed to ban or restrict high-tech, at-home businesses, it would set a dangerous precedent. I believe we really need these businesses for they serve a vital function to their communities and many may become the big businesses of tomorrow. We should do our best to oppose any legislation restricting telecommuting.

Rich Whitsell
Norman, Okla.

Videotex Law

Your July cover article on videotex legalities cited instances of companies losing thousands of dollars (and more) yearly from piracy. The article, however, failed to mention specifically how the companies were losing this money. I realize that if you mention either a specific company or method of piracy that perhaps hundreds of "crackers" will jump at the chance to try it firsthand. Yet, why publish something that leaves the reader wondering if he really learned anything from it?

Not everyone spends his or her time trying to infiltrate networks. In fact, most networkers, given half a chance, would like to study the specific problems involved and find reasonable solutions to them.

S. C. Vautier
Inkster, Mich.

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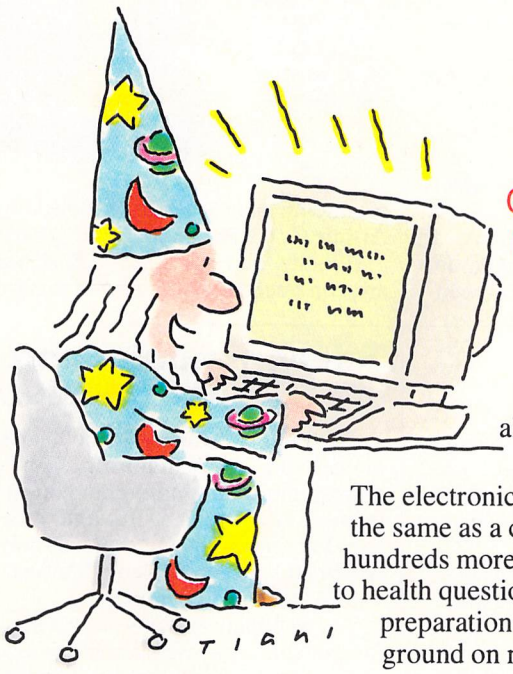

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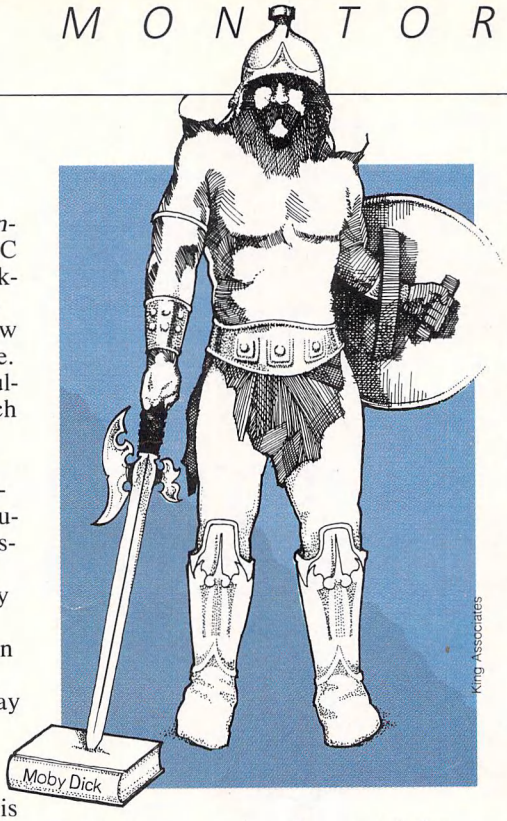
Adventure Game as Literature

Ever since the first version of *Adventure* was programmed into a bulky DEC computer more than 20 years ago, hackers have argued that the game is more than a simple electronic diversion. Now academicians have taken up the debate.

At a recent meeting of the Popular Culture Association — the purpose of which is "to study thoroughly and seriously those productions . . . designed for mass consumption" — professors pondered whether adventure games are truly a new form of literature or are just escapist recreation. According to Peter Jordan, the Tennessee State University professor who chaired the adventure panel, some good arguments have been made for both views.

"Because what you do when you play an adventure game is read and write words, the comparison with literature is a natural one," Jordan says. "The latest generation of *Adventure* games is increasingly connecting with the world of print fiction. Some of these games are more than simply parodies of popular fiction — game manufacturers have been producing games based on novels by Arthur C. Clarke and Ray Bradbury."



He adds that many *Adventure* fans are convinced that the newer versions of the game are new and improved forms of art that transcend the rigid, sequential experience of reading a book. Why? Because the player is actually a reader who, through computer commands, actively participates in shaping what happens next.

However, Jordan, who writes a weekly computer column for an Atlanta newspaper, remains unconvinced. "*Adventure* games are still characterized by simple sentences, monosyllabic vocabulary and a total absence of figurative language," he maintains. "And the choices offered in 'electronic fiction' are sharply limited. I usually feel as if I'm wearing blinders when I play an electronic novel, because I invariably want to experience more than the program permits."

Will "Adventure Lit" soon gain more widespread acceptance among scholars? Jordan remains skeptical. "Maybe someday a Faulkner will come along with a gift for Boolean logic as well as prose style," he speculates. "But I'll continue doing my reading in print for the foreseeable future."

— Carole Houze Gerber

Venture Capital Bill Pending

Many small and new high-tech companies are anxiously waiting to see what action Congress will take on a bill recently proposed by Sen. Robert Kasten (D-Wis).

Kasten's legislation would provide venture capitalists and other investors with a maximum $100,000 tax write-off on money used to purchase stock in small businesses. Many computer firms, especially software publishers and peripheral manufacturers, would qualify under the proposal.

The measure would also provide a 10 percent tax credit on wages paid by employers of 20 workers or less and a $10,000 business property and equipment expensing provision. Kasten would also like Congress to enable small companies to deduct fringe benefits, like health insurance and retirement plans, from their tax obligations. Currently, only corporations are allowed fringe benefit deductions.

Capitol Hill observers say the eventual outcome of Kasten's bill depends on the action Congress takes on tax reform in general.

— John Edwards

Telecommunicating via Cellular Telephone

Conducting business by cellular telephone while stuck in a traffic jam is becoming more and more common in the nation's largest cities. But until recently, data and private voice transmission have had special problems limiting their use on cellular telephones.

Since cellular systems use radio waves for transmission, signals fade as users move away from the system's radio towers. While this isn't noticeable when customers talk on the mobile phone, it can cause computer terminals to transmit errors. In addition, as a customer travels around a city, the call is "handed-off" from one radio tower to another. Without proper equipment, users sending data during a "hand-off" would lose their connection.

But Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems and AT&T are trying to solve some of these problems, and this summer launched the first wide-scale field trial in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md. Using cellular mobile telephones equipped with special modems for encrypted voice and data transmission and portable computers from Hewlett-Packard and Data General, 50 customers are being asked to evaluate the equipment and services involved and the feasibility of future use.

"We're trying to get a real handle on the types of applications that could develop from this technology. So far there has just been a lot of speculation, but no widespread experiment with the actual customers who are using the systems," says Brian Wood of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems. He adds that the 50 users selected for the trial were chosen from a cross-section of industry groups, including banking, insurance, news media, telecommunications, manufacturing, hotel, professional service and government.

Customers could utilize data communications out on the road in a number of ways. For instance, a real estate agent could easily check the Multiple Listing Service database while out with a client, sales people could access the company's inventory system and field repair service individuals could check out parts inventories and get advice on troubleshooting. Commercial databases, such as CompuServe, could even be accessed.

— Cathryn Conroy

Airports Setting Videotex Trend

Airports in New York City and Phoenix may well be setting the pace for a national trend in offering travelers information via videotex.

New York's LaGuardia Airport installed the first East Coast airport videotex system in the spring. It provides travelers with information on airline gate and terminal locations, a directory of airport services and facilities, ground transportation rates and schedules, tourist information and other services.

Using software developed by Videodial Inc., the system is being initiated on a six-month trial, according to Jim Tomkins, vice president of Videodial sales. "The trial will determine the viability of videotex technology for conveying a wide array of information at public transportation facilities," he explains. The cost of the trial is estimated to be $175,000.

Housed in well-marked public access enclosures located throughout LaGuardia, the bilingual English-Spanish videotex system makes use of text as well as signs, symbols, graphic illustrations and international pictograms.

Through simple keystrokes that require no knowledge of computers, travelers will be able to obtain the desired information by choosing categories from a broad list that will direct the user to more and more specific levels of information.

Tomkins says that although the current project is strictly informational, it is anticipated that future refinements may include hard-copy printouts, an integrated videodisc subsystem that would provide audio and video information in addition to the standard text and graphics, transactional services that would allow patrons to purchase services via credit card and gateways to other videotex services.

Across the country, the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport installed electronic terminals this summer to inform visitors about the airport as well as the area's attractions, events and services through colorful computerized graphics and text.

The airport videotex system is part of the popular Teleguide Metro Phoenix, begun last September with 75 public access terminals located in high traffic areas around the city, including shopping malls, visitor centers, a park, a resort and Arizona State University.

Says George Stokes, Teleguide Metro Phoenix videotex marketing manager, "Use of the terminals at shopping centers has been heavy. It will be interesting to see how use of the terminals at the airport compares with other high-use terminal locations. At the airport, we have a situation where people often have time on their hands. That 'extra time' will prove to be a real boon to our information providers who are using the system to market their products and services."

Officials of Teleguide Metro Phoenix say new developments for the videotex system "are the rule, not the exception." They expect many new applications and locations to develop for this electronic information medium.

— Cathryn Conroy

Congratulations, Smarties

If you're a regular reader of *Online Today*, or any other computer-oriented periodical, congratulations. It means you're an intelligent, highly educated person. If you don't believe us, just ask Dr. Ronald S. Lemos of California State University.

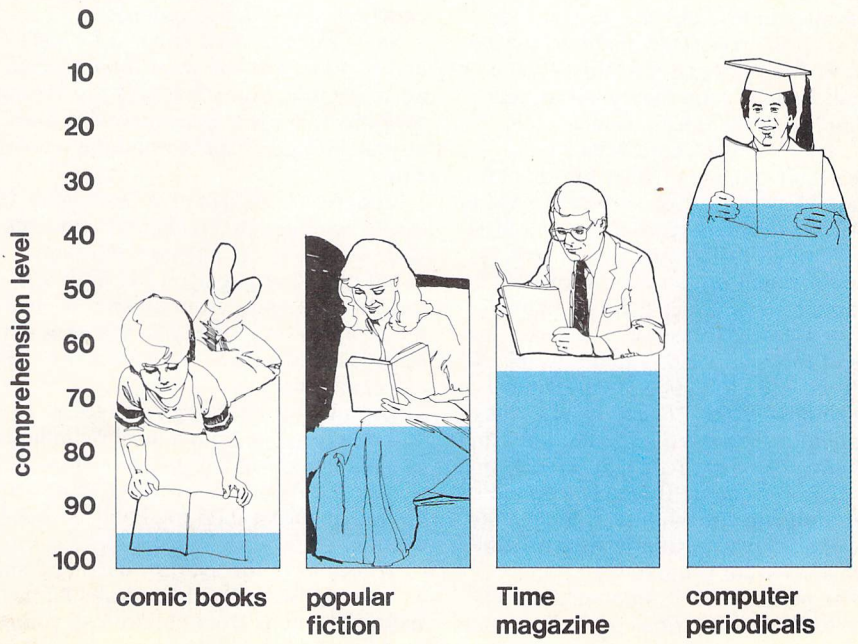
Dr. Lemos recently devised a computer program that measures the relative reading difficulty of various printed materials. By measuring the average number of words per sentence and the number of syllables per word in a magazine or book, the program can evaluate the complexity of the information covered.

The program uses a reference scale ranging from 1 to 100, with 100 being the easiest. Under the system, comic books were rated from 90 to 100; popular fiction 70 to 80, *Time* magazine 60 to 70 and *Harper's* magazine 50 to 60. When computer periodicals were tested, the scores ranged between 27 and 43, making them the most difficult reading materials aimed at a general audience.

Dr. Lemos says that the simplest computer magazine tested — *Popular Computing* — required at least a high school diploma reading level to understand, while the most difficult — *The IBM Systems Journal* — required a post-college graduate comprehension level.

It sort of makes you wonder where the WordStar Reference Manual would place on the scale. We didn't ask Dr. Lemos if negative numbers are possible.

— John Edwards



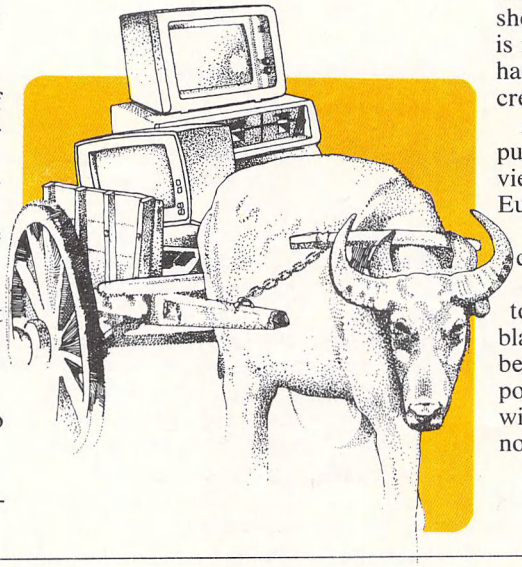
Brazil's Struggling Computer Industry

Hear the words "Silicon Valley" and you immediately think of the area located just outside of San Francisco that's known around the world for its high-tech industries. But near Sao Paulo, Brazil, there's another Silicon Valley — a miniature one — that's not nearly as well known or as technically advanced as the one in California.

While most of us have never heard of this place, most American high-tech companies have, and many of the U.S manufacturers consider it an example of unfair foreign competition in the computer business.

Back in the mid-1970s, the former military government of Brazil concluded that the only way to bring Brazil into the 20th century was for the country to establish its own home-grown computer industry. But the generals, realizing that Brazilian companies were no match for the likes of IBM, DEC and Burroughs, prohibited foreign firms from manufacturing or importing small computers into the South American nation.

While American manufacturers continue to grumble about the trade restrictions, Brazil's new popularly elected leaders think the plan has been an overwhelming success. Although the computers Brazilian firms produce are far from state-of-the-art and cost more than three times as much as U.S. counterparts, most government officials are happy with their country's high-tech progress. According to Edson Fregni, head of the Brazilian Computer Manufactures Association, "If we aren't state-of-the-art right now, it isn't that important. All that matters now is that Brazilian engineers are designing Brazilian computers. If we don't learn to do it ourselves, we will be forever at IBM's mercy."



But a minority within the government feels it is impossible to go into direct competition with the United States and Japan. Roberto Campos, a Brazilian senator, notes, "Even if everybody in the country was a genius, we couldn't possibly catch up with the United States. We're still developing as a country and should focus on exporting goods. But it is impossible to compete when they have a car industry and we are trying to create an ox-cart business."

A vice president of a major U.S. computer manufacturer also has a negative view of Brazil's effort: "Restricting U.S., European or Japanese exports isn't going to help Brazil," he says. "All they're doing is hurting their own economy by making their businesses pay more for top-notch small office systems on the black market. If Brazil is serious about becoming a true computer manufacturing power, it ought to join in cooperation with the other countries of the world, not hide in a corner."

— John Edwards

Kids Are Hackers, Too

Who says all kids want to do is sit around and watch television? Just ask thousands of New York City children under the age of 12 how they spend their afternoons, and the answer may just surprise you. They listen to the radio. And it's not just the latest Prince or Cyndi Lauper song they want to hear. Oh no! It's talk. That's right — talk.

"Small Things Considered" is a three-hour radio show just for kids begun in New York City on WNYC-AM in April 1984. The popular show airs Monday through Friday and next month is going national on the American Public Radio network under the new name "Kids USA." The show is diverse, and one of those 15 weekly hours is specifically devoted to kids and computers.

The host of the "Computer Lessons" segment is Thomas F. Trocco, a teacher of biology at New York's St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's School. Trocco is assisted by Meredith Jones Frummer, a precocious 11-year-old who regularly reviews children's software programs.

The purpose of "Computer Lessons" is to explore the various uses of computers in a fun, non-threatening way. Trocco emphasizes that owning a computer is not necessary to participate in and enjoy the show, which features live interaction with the listeners through phone calls and computer games on the air, courtesy of a talking computer.

Says Trocco, "The show is for kids and by kids, and we want them to take an active role. Something like this is long overdue and gives kids something constructive to do besides watching television."

Trocco uses imaginative techniques to explain complicated computer concepts, such as having his listeners put numbered pieces of paper on the floor and then hopscotching from number to number to understand the idea of a programming loop. The show receives nearly 100 calls each night.

The show is a whopping success. In addition to going from a local radio hour to a national program, the show has won a Peabody Award and a grant from the National Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Trocco says the average listener's age is "around 9 or 10," but admits he has had phone calls from children as young as 4. No calls are accepted from anyone over 12.

Children of CompuServe users who would like to ask Trocco or Meredith a question can contact them via EasyPlex at 70007,1145.

— Cathryn Conroy

High Technology Association Directory

Young & Associates, a computer industry public relations agency, has published a directory of information- and computer-oriented trade associations.

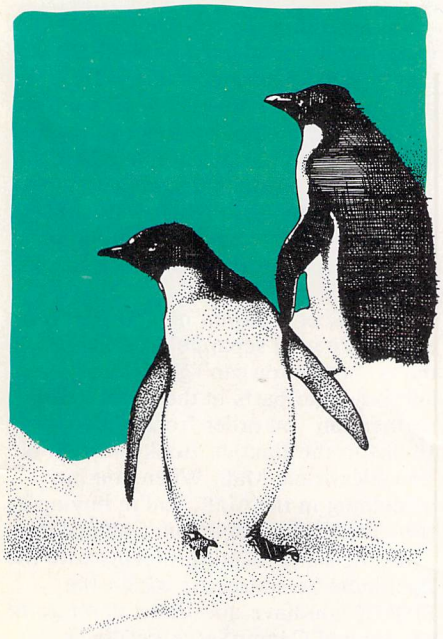
The "High Tech Directory" lists national trade and professional associations that say they are willing to act as a public resource within their specialties. Included is information on each organization's director, headquarters, activities, services, divisions and publications.

The directory is priced at $2.50 postpaid, and is available from Young & Associates, 6187 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852; 301/984-8586.

Penguins Online

Thanks to two newly installed satellite links, scientists and other station personnel at the South Pole can now, for the first time, have reliable data communication with the United States.

Ground support equipment for the satellite system was installed at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole station earlier this year by NASA engineers. One of the links daily tracks four polar orbiting satellites, each of which can relay high-volume, errorless data to McMurdo Station on the coast of Antarctica more than 800 miles away. McMurdo then retransmits the data to a commercial satellite in geosynchronous orbit for relay to the United States. The other link supports direct voice communication to the United States via geosynchronous satellite.



Before the satellite links were installed, the South Pole station had to rely on high-frequency radios to transmit data by teletypewriter. Ionospheric disturbances, which can be particularly severe in the polar region, frequently interrupted communications or introduced errors. Between February and November of each year, during the dark antarctic winter, the station's 18 to 20 residents are completely isolated, with radio and satellite communication providing the only link to the outside world.

— John Edwards

Computers: Source of Legal Problems?

Did you know that simply owning a computer could put you at risk for a lawsuit?

With the number of computer-related lawsuits rapidly increasing, all who make or own computers are at risk unless they educate themselves about the legal aspects of computer use, according to Charles P. Lickson, editor of the *Computer Users' Legal Reporter.*

"Legal considerations must be as important to computer companies and their customers as the capabilities of their products and their applications," he says.

He adds that the number of computer-related lawsuits more than doubled last year. There were only 600 lawsuits involving computer law in 1981, but that number had jumped to 3,500 by mid-1984 and is expected to reach 5,000 in 1985.

"The proliferation of microcomputers and other aspects of the information revolution has placed both computer vendors and users in legal entanglements that have nearly ruined some companies financially. It is perfectly clear that we are not only in the computer age but also in the lawsuit age," he says.

The most common area for lawsuits to emerge are in the areas of contracts, consumer and vendor rights, computer crime, data security and privacy.

— Cathryn Conroy

Assorted Bits

IBM is now sending dealers free software to accompany some models of its personal computers, including the PC-XT. Bundled packages include Displaywrite III, Topview, Data Addition, Writing Assistant and Planning Assistant. Dealers are expected to include the free software with PC-XT systems they sell to customers.

Columbia Data Products, a maker of IBM-compatible personal computers, has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. A Columbia spokesman says the company will continue to develop new products and service and ship current units.

CompuServe has a new chief executive officer. Henry W. Bloch, president and chief executive officer of parent company H&R Block Inc., has announced that Charles W. McCall has been named CEO of CompuServe. McCall, 41, has served as president and chief operating officer of CompuServe since March 1984.

Data General Corp. has reduced the price of its Data General/One portable computer. The price for the most commonly sold configuration, which includes two 3½-inch disk drives and 256K of memory, has been cut by 15 percent to $3,495 from $4,095.

Warner Communications Inc. has agreed to pay $17.5 million to settle a suit by stockholders who claimed the firm waited too long in 1982 to tell them that Atari's earnings were falling rapidly. The settlement covers all who invested in Warner between March 1982, when the company's annual report was issued, and Dec. 8, 1982, when the company made Atari's problems public. Warner reported losses of $586 million in 1984, saying it would have earned a profit had it not been for a loss of $611.7 million from Atari.

John Sands, 43, of Encino, Calif., has told local police he's received numerous death threats from alleged extortionists visiting his computer bulletin board. Forum administrator Sands told Los Angeles authorities he received threats and demands for money in electronic messages posted on his BBS throughout March and early April. "We can still make your life unfit for living," said one of the messages, according to a report by Michael D. Harris of United Press International. Police are investigating.

Fujitsu Ltd. has introduced what it claims is the world's fastest supercomputer. The machine, called the VP-400, is capable of making more than 1 billion calculations a second, company officials in Tokyo claim.

Atari Corp. says it plans to build a sophisticated manufacturing plant in Nevada and may be leaving California entirely. Company spokesman James Copland told United Press International that Atari expects to eventually employ 200 at the facility, which Nevada officials describe as a state-of-the-art robotics plant. Construction is expected to begin in about a year.

— John Edwards

The Electronic Shopping Cart

I live near one of the country's largest shopping pavilions. Within its monolithic confines, lurk stores of every size and specialty. When I visit that mall, I get a decent day's exercise just walking from my parking spot to the entrance, and an extra workout wandering around searching for the right store. If I have to make purchases of different kinds, I feel like I've gone on a 50-mile hike. And the walk back to the car, carrying slowly tearing bags, heavy packages and a profusion of receipts, is just about enough to do me in.

Maybe I'm lazy. All I know is that every time I shop there, I swear I'll never do it again. I want my packages delivered, my searches guided and my feet spared!

Imagine my delight, then, when CompuServe announced the founding of The Electronic Mall™!

The Electronic Mall is a free service, open to all CompuServe subscribers. No membership fee is required, nor is a special access identification number. Unlike some computer networked shopping systems, the mall is not restricted to only one form of credit. And it has enough variety to satisfy fans of malls as large as the one in my hometown.

Entering the Electronic Mall is as simple as typing "GO MALL" from any prompt in the CompuServe system. At the entrance, a menu of options is posted, providing an easy-to-follow guide through the Mall.

Unless you have a specific purchase in mind, why not "Browse the Mall" (menu item 5). It's always fun to do some window shopping. Look over the basic types of stores available. If one interests you, take a closer look. If you found the "Book Bazaar" listing enticing, choosing it will provide you with a short list of book merchants plying their trade in the Mall. Or look over the wares at the Computer Store, the Record Emporium, and the Auto Shop. You can even plan your next vacation at the Travel Agency.

Each store in the Mall has its own menu. Why the extra menu listings where one might do? Consider that when you go to a regular mall, each store not only sells different products, but also allows you to pay in different ways, often with different credit cards, or simple billing procedures. Similarly, the merchants in the Electronic Mall choose their own billing methods. Many take every card from MasterCard to American Express. Others, such as Sears, also let you use your personal credit account with their chain of stores. A few allow direct billing.

Once you've looked over a store's database — the electronic equivalent of display shelves — you know what you want to order. Before you do, take another look at the store's menu. Just as each store has its own billing procedure, so does each one have its own charges for shipping, handling and such. The price on an item in any store might be the final cost to you, but it might not. Be certain you know how much the final cost will be, to avoid surprises. All the information you need is in the "How to Order" selection on the store's menu.

With the final purchase price in mind, scroll back through the store's menus until the item you want to buy is listed.

Illustrated Alaskan Moose

Entering the command "O" will bring a prompt requesting the number of that product. Or, if you enter an "O" from within the database's description of the item, the store automatically starts your order with that information.

Perhaps you want to continue shopping. No problem, as long as you stay in the same store. Each time you spot something you would like to buy, entering "O" adds it to your shopping list. Only when you choose to leave the store is further information requested. You'll be prompted for the quantity of each purchase you want, your name, address, phone number, credit information and delivery method. Once you've completed that, a summary of your order will follow, so you can verify your purchases.

If, at any time, you change your mind, you can cancel your order simply by typing "EXIT". There is no "point of no return" in the ordering process. Unless you complete it in every detail, your order will not be placed. Don't worry about half-made orders finding their way to your door. The choice remains with you throughout the ordering prompts. So if you changed your mind about a purchase, you won't need to seek out a menu item for canceling. The EXIT command does that automatically.

At the end of the ordering process, you'll get a "confirmation number." Jot that down, or store it on a diskette for permanant computer recall. If you decide to make an inquiry about your order later on, you'll need that number. Each store's database includes phone numbers and addresses. When you make your inquiry, that confirmation number makes it easy for them to check the status of your order.

Remember that you must order from each store with separate ordering procedures. Just as you can't go into a toy store and buy auto parts in the "real" world, neither can you order from Walden Books in the Bantam Books section of The Electronic Mall. When you buy something in the Mall, you're buying it from the store — not from CompuServe.

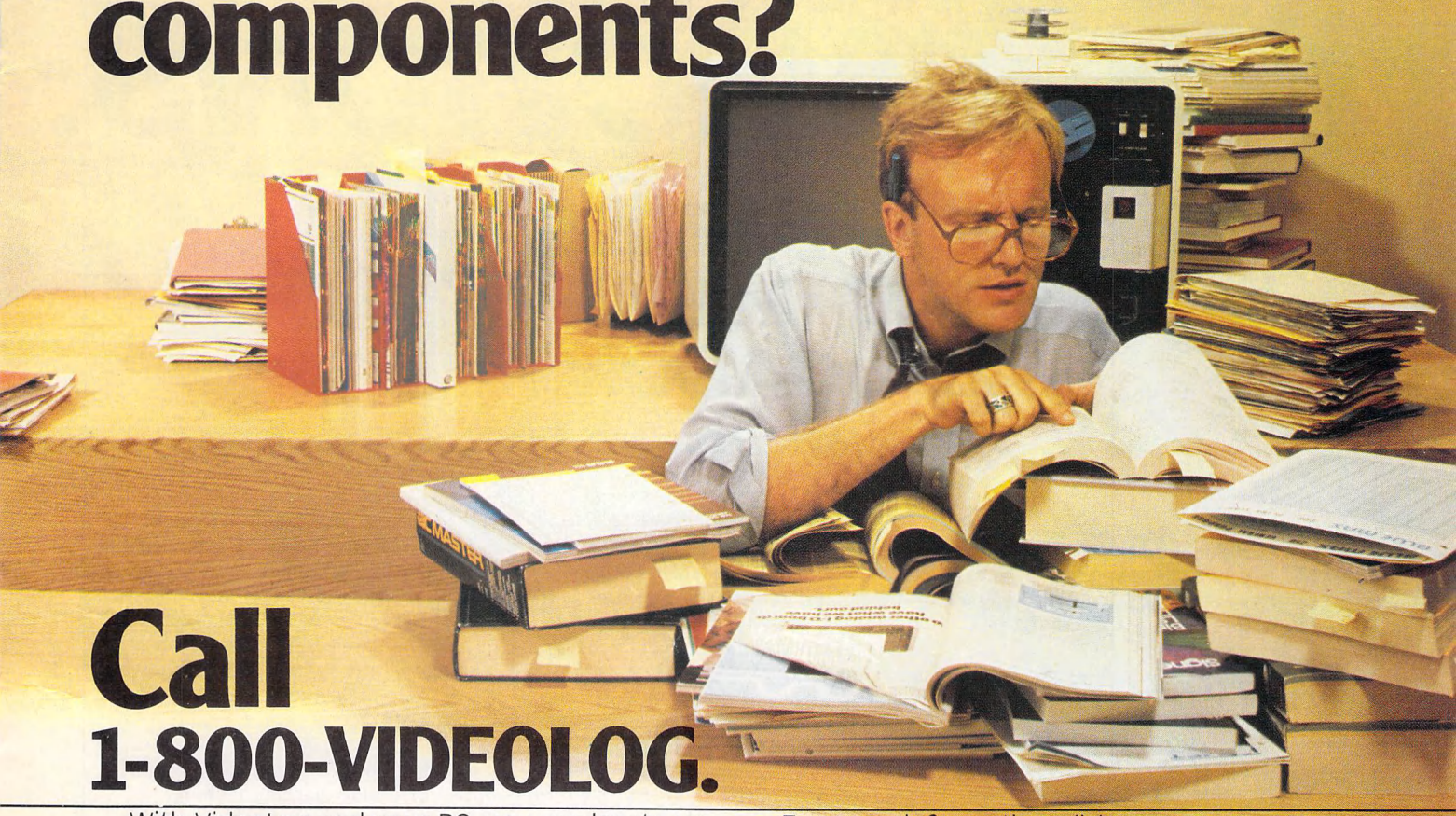
By the same token, problems with the Mall must be addressed within the Mall. If you have questions, don't go to the general CompuServe Feedback pages. Instead, return to the Mall main menu, and choose item 6, "Talk to the Mall Manager." This is the Mall's own Feedback area. Questions posted here will be dealt with as swiftly as possible, generally before 24 hours have passed.

The Electronic Mall is an ever growing database. As I write this, it has perhaps 45 or 50 merchants with storefronts. By the time you see this column in print, the Mall will boast upwards of 100 merchants. So whenever you visit the Mall, take a look at "New and Noteworthy," item 2 on the Mall menu. It serves as a billboard, with notices about new stores and exciting new products available in the Mall.

And remember, when you visit the Mall, you won't have to walk endless aisles. There aren't any long lines at checkout counters to daunt you. You won't be buried under awkward, heavy packages. And you'll never have any trouble finding a parking space.

Alex Krislov is a free-lance writer from Cleveland. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2130.

Looking for a faster way to find electronic components?



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LEARNING CONNECTIONS:

OPPORTUNITIES IN ONLINE EDUCATION

by Carole Houze Gerber

"All men who have turned out worth anything have had the chief hand in their own education"

— Sir Walter Scott

Whether it's for professional advancement, personal growth or just plain pleasure, people of all ages are taking a growing interest in furthering their own educations. Many are finding that forums and other online services provide a convenient smorgasbord of educational opportunities to fit their schedules and lifestyles.

Because they offer such friendly environments, forums have often been compared to small towns. Actually, the term "planned communities" is more accurate, because members can select the online community that best meets their needs. Many people choose to combine the best of many communities by belonging to a number of forums, each of which fulfills a particular interest.

Despite their differences, all forums have certain features in common. Each offers messaging, bulletins and real-time conferencing capabilities. All forums also offer data libraries where information may be stored and retrieved. Members who get the most out of these online communities are usually those who make use of many of their features. In doing so, they help provide the "local color" that makes each online community distinctive.

On CompuServe, opportunities for online learning are being expanded to meet the needs of just about everyone from serious scholars to trivia buffs, according to Cindy Silvani-Lacey, CompuServe's manager of educational services. "Established forums such as the Education Forum are being expanded to offer more in-depth information and services," she says, "and a number of new education-related forums are being added to the service.

"In a broad sense, the entire CompuServe service is actually a series of learning connections between users who access the system to gain knowledge, trade facts and offer advice on an incredible range of topics," adds Silvani-Lacey.

In addition to forums, other opportunities for online learning include information/research databases, news services for current research, online instructional programs, educational games, and software and computer resource materials. Not surprisingly, teachers are among the most enthusiastic users of the Education Forum and other related services. However, parents, students, administrators, consultants, librarians and an assortment of other "lovers of learning" also regularly access educational services.

Education and Science Forums

According to Chuck Lynd, an educational consultant and former teacher who is the forum administrator of the Education Forum (GO EDU-4), this forum is being expanded to include nearly a dozen subtopic categories ranging from general and special education to software and professional issues. "I'm working to build up a big collection of public domain educational software for educators, parents and students to access," Lynd says.

"We especially want to encourage parents to drop by the forum, and a

subtopic area called 'Parent Line' has been set up specifically for them — although they are very welcome to participate in all areas of the forum. Another subtopic area called 'Student Views' has been set up as a place for young people to offer their opinions," Lynd adds.

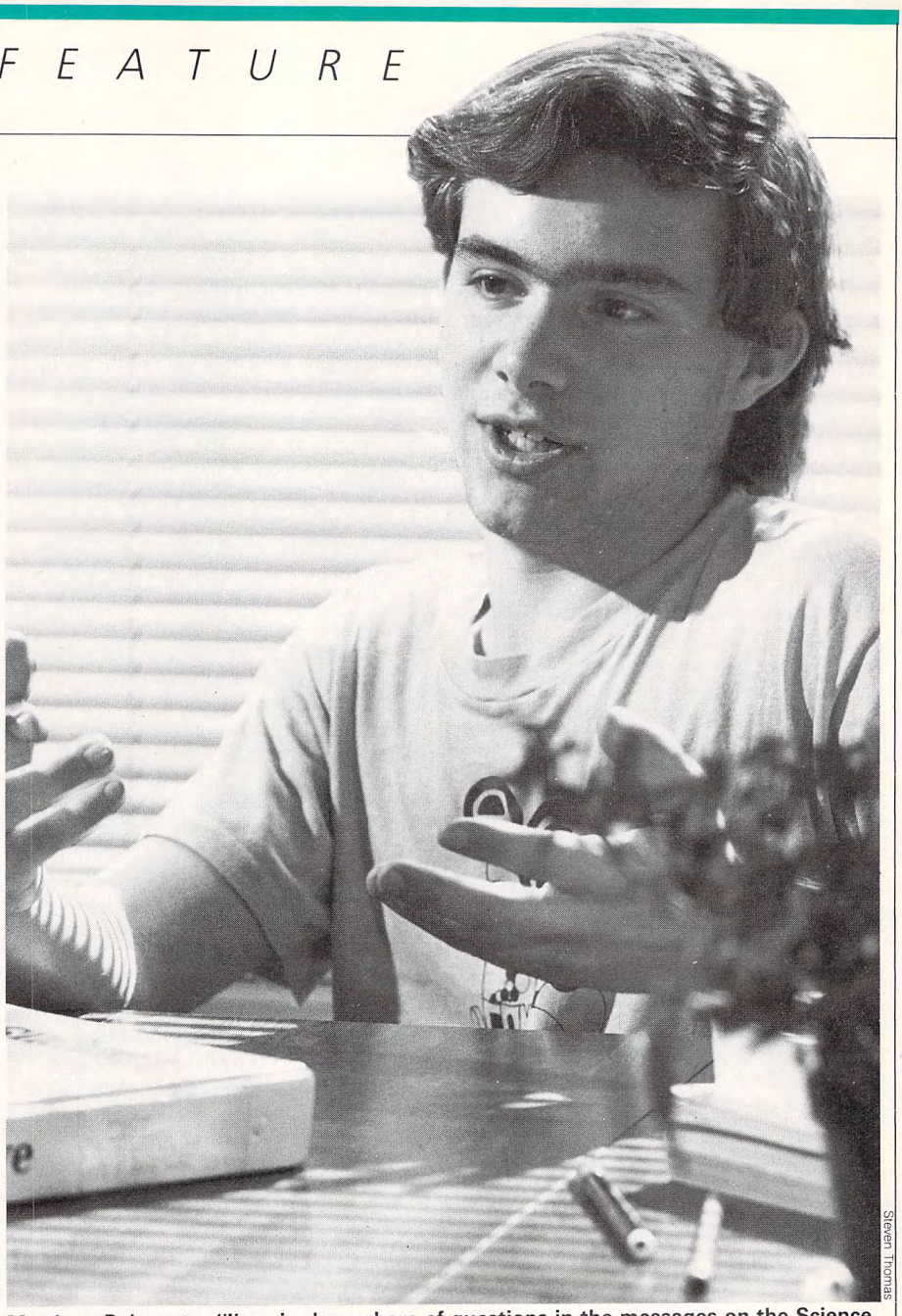
Whether it's a debate on creationism, a discussion of math software, or parents' views on how to motivate gifted children, exchanges on the Education Forum invite lively participation on all sides.

Education Forum member Jim Muller says it offers "an eye on the world." Muller, president of the Young People's Logo Association headquartered in Richardson, Texas, adds that forum discussions underscore just how widely the educational use of computers varies in different locales. "I find that others around the country are doing things with Logo and with computers in the schools that are much further along than what's happening in some Texas programs," he explains. "The marvelous thing about the Education Forum is that it's a chance for me to talk directly to people about what's happening in their states."

Another forum with members all over the map is the Science Education Forum (GO EDU-13), a friendly online community of scientists, teachers and students. According to forum administrator Rick Needham, popular features of this forum include the Job Bank, an online listing of employment opportunities in science; Science Updates, which offers concise updates of new advancements in science; Lab Notebook, an online compendium of safe experiments for the home scientist; and various regularly featured conferences, including the Online Teacher and the Bull Pen.

With more than 40 years' experience as a scientist and teacher, Gerald Heller might well be considered the elder statesman of the Science Education forum. A professor of engineering at Brown University, Heller has been using this forum since it began. "My main reason for being interested is that I hoped to contribute to the education of the younger people on the forum," Heller says. "I get quite disturbed at the lack of actual sciences being taught in the schools.

"There are some concepts that sound very simple but which are widely misunderstood," he explains. "For example, take a photon . . . which is one way of describing light. People don't understand that this comes from quantum theory. It's especially difficult for young people to comprehend because they usually haven't had a thorough course in quantum theory until much later in their educations."



Steven Thomas

Matthew Belmonte: "I've aired my share of questions in the messages on the Science Education Forum and have had excellent responses."

Heller, who holds a Ph.D. in physics, says that pure science needs more emphasis. "I do like to correct misconceptions," he says. "The Science Education Forum can provide a useful place to instill in young people an appreciation of what science is all about, as well as a place to teach some science."

One young person who has made wide use of the Science Education Forum is Matthew Belmonte, a 16-year-old high school student from Alexandria, Va., who says it provides a good learning environment. "I've aired my share of questions in the messages there, and have had excellent responses," he explains.

Like that of many other members, Belmonte's experience with the forum has been a two-way street — he gives as well as receives. Specifically, his giving entails uploading software he's developed. "I have programs such as a smart oscilloscope emulator and an extended Color Computer disk directory program being used frequently by those accessing the forum," he says proudly.

Not surprisingly, Belmonte — who studied LISP and logical inference processing at Duke University last summer — plans on a computer science career. He

credits the Science Education Forum and forum administrator Rick Needham for fueling his interest. "The weekly real-time conferences can be quite thought-provoking . . . with topics ranging from laboratory computer interfacing to the ethics of the use of laboratory animals in experiments.

"Rick compiled a gigantic list of summer science education programs and uploaded it into several text files earlier this year," Belmonte adds. "This undoubtedly took a great deal of time and effort — Rick is definitely the most user-friendly feature of the forum."

Databases: Vast Educational Tools

Learning needn't always be an in-person interactive experience, of course, and that's where online databases can offer quick assistance. Whether's it's a quick fact-finding expedition into Grolier's *Academic American Encyclopedia* (GO AAE) or a publication order from U.S. Government Publications (GO GPO), many people find online searches easy and affordable. Specialized databases, containing information that's free for the uploading, also exist in nearly all forums.

According to a study of consumer behavior by the consulting firm of Arthur D. Little, a strong market exists for services that are convenient and save time. Online databases certainly fit those criteria. For example, PaperChase (GO PCH), the newest and most sophisticated medical reference database on CompuServe, offers quick access to more than 2 million references in 3,400 medical journals. The staff of professional researchers who service Information on Demand (GO IOD) can save users enormous amounts of time by conducting intensive online searches of Dialog, Infoline, Dow Jones News/Retrieval and hundreds of other major databases. First-time users receive a 20 percent discount on labor fees. What's more, online search data can be transferred directly into the user's EasyPlex area the same day.

Two other popular education-related databases are the College Board (GO TCB) and the College Press Service (GO CPS). The College Board, operated by the College Entrance Examination Board, includes information on preparing for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a College Planning section with tips on college selection, and an Adult Education section. Information on financial aid and other topics of interest to prospective students are also included. The College Press Service provides a weekly update of campus news briefs about school events, as well as current information on relevant legislation, funding patterns, administrative affairs, financial-aid information and other college-related topics. A Campus Classifieds section provides an online bulletin board for students and faculty.

Additional educational databases and forums include the Educational Products Information Exchange Institute (GO EPIE), which contains thousands of educational software evaluations by teachers and other education professionals, and ADCIS (GO EDU-7). ADCIS — the Association for the Development of Computer-Based Instructional Systems — is an international, nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the use of computer-based education and training through the exchange of information and materials.

Educational Games

Can you name the political group that controls the Nicaraguan government? Are you familiar with the island nations of the Caribbean? If you can answer these and other questions, you have a shot at being named a "Whizard" on *The Whiz Quiz* (GO EDU-24), an interactive educational game that makes learning fun. *The Whiz Quiz* offers up to four players a chance to answer questions in several categories, such as current events, movies, sports, art and architecture. Based on information from Grolier's *Academic American Encyclopedia*, *The Whiz Quiz* keeps a running list of players who've answered 30 questions correctly in one category. These educated whizzes become members of the Whizard Hall of Fame.

Another game that makes an adventure of acquiring knowledge is *The Multiple Choice* (GO TMC), which offers a variety of tests, teasers and trivia questions for adults and children, and was created by a university professor. Whether it's an introductory typing lesson from the Touch Type Tutor section, a quick game of Silly Fill-ins, or a soul-searching look at your psyche while answering the Personality Profile questions, *TMC* — which has been online since 1981 — provides plenty of thought-provoking stimulation for the whole family.

Coming Attractions

Many people find getting in on the ground floor of a new forum or database particularly exciting. The following products are slated to go on the system sometime this fall. Why not plan to check in and take a look?

Disabilities Forum

"The traditional way of viewing handicaps has been to look at them separately, but the current thinking among professionals is that different handicaps really have more in common than had been thought in the past," says Dave Manning, coordinator of Mainstream Services at the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Mass.

Manning is also forum administrator for the new Disabilities Forum, parts of which will emphasize the similarities among the various handicaps. The subtopic areas in the forum that will be relevant to all handicapped persons include government activities, education, employment, family life/leisure time and counseling/rehabilitation. Other subtopics will be directed more specifically toward types of disabilities, including developmental disabilities — such as mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy — emotional disturbances, hearing impairments, learning disabilities, vision impairments and mobility impairments.

"We're not going to turn any type of handicap away," Manning says. "We're going to encourage members to build up data files and take advantage of conferencing features on all types of disabilities. I expect a lot of participation in the forum from parents and teachers, as well as those with disabilities."

Educational Travel Connection

Headed by information providers Randy LeGrant and Terry Strickland, the Educational Travel Connection (ETC) will provide information on travel programs with study content or credit transfer. The database will provide the latest facts on programs for junior high, high school, college, adult and family educational travel, as well as domestic camps and trips. Information on working abroad, hosting foreign students and how teachers can organize a travel group will also be available.

Strickland says that typical requests for information may include parents needing specific information on summer homestay programs for their high school child, a college student requesting details on a Peruvian exchange program, and a senior citizen wanting three hours credit in quilting for a spring program in Italy. ETC is prepared to handle data requests from these and many other types of travelers.

Greg Miller

Jerry Ervin: "Through CompuServe we hope to expand the interest and availability of foreign language information for people of all ages."

According to the Council on International Educational Exchange, more than 800 universities and 75 smaller organizations sponsor overseas study programs annually. "These figures make it clear that there's a strong need for a central data/information base to aid applicants, parents and non-traditional students," says Randy LeGrant. "With over a million people traveling abroad each year on study programs, we expect great interest in the ETC database."

Foreign Language Education

"There are over 3 million foreign language students in the United States," says Jerry Ervin, a Slavic languages professor at Ohio State University, "yet there are more people studying English in Leningrad than there are studying Russian in America."

To help combat this and other language inequities, Ervin — along with two other language professors — has developed the Foreign Language Education Forum. "Via CompuServe, we hope to expand the interest and availability of foreign language information for people of all ages," Ervin explains.

Besides Russian, the forum will feature Romance Languages, German and English as a second language. Ervin says more languages will be added as the demand arises. Services will be available in each of the languages for professionals, teachers, translators and students. Initially, the forum will be divided into college and precollege areas, but, says Ervin, "If we find a lot of people interested in foreign language mastery in the elementary grades, we'll open another subtopic area to meet their needs.

"We'll also post messages on upcoming conferences, job openings, and travel and study abroad programs. Members will also have an area to talk about new materials they have found useful. We also hope to provide services for young students just beginning their foreign language studies."

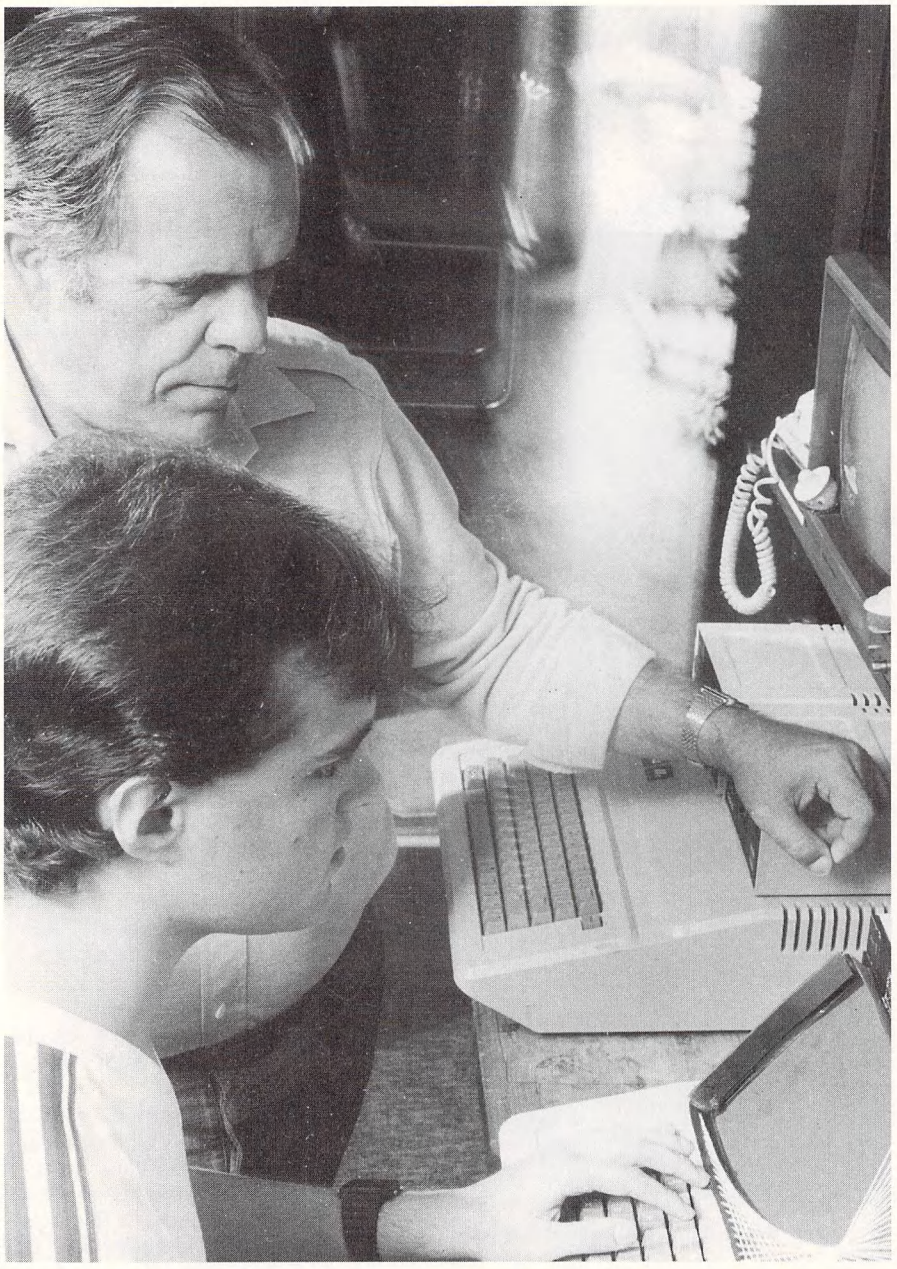
Ervin says the forum will also include updated postings of foreign language conferences and special programs. "We want to be responsive to everyone using the forum," Ervin emphasizes. "I encourage suggestions from new members on ways we can be more responsive to their needs."

Kids' Forum

Although most of them piggyback on their parents' CompuServe accounts, a growing number of children and young adults visit on CB and check into various forums. Now, says Kids' Forum administrator David Winslow, middle school students (grades 5 through 9) will have a place to call their own. Winslow, a math and computer science teacher at Columbus Academy, says interest is running high at his school. "Every time I mention the forum to students, their eyes light up," he says. "I'm excited about the possibilities offered by a forum specifically for young people."

Winslow says the forum will provide middle school youngsters a place to exchange information on hobbies, sports, programming, books and other topics of interest. Since his students at the Academy have been in on the forum from the discussion stage, he expects a lot of participation on the home front. Winslow stresses, however, that the Kids' Forum will be open to children all over the country. "We think offering this forum as an avenue for kids to communicate with others at schools across the country will be a big plus," he explains. "A lot of youngsters get on local bulletin boards, but I don't know of any interactive services that enable them to talk with their peers in other areas."

Winslow, who expects to select a student as assistant forum administrator, says that a junior high teacher from Fairbanks, Alaska, has already told him — via another forum — that her students are interested in talking with other



Glenn Helm

Jim Muller (top): "We'll provide conferences in which Logo experts will be available to answer programming questions."

children online. The Kids' Forum is expected to open up new avenues of learning and friendship for these and many other middle school students.

Logo Forum

In the dozen or so years since its inception, Logo has become one of the most popular educational programming languages. It can be used by children as young as three, and has been a successful tool for working with learning disabled as well as gifted children. According to Jim Muller, forum administrator and president of the Young People's Logo Association, this new forum will give young people, their parents and teachers a place to get a comprehensive taste of this popular language.

"We'll have materials there for all ages from kindergarten through high school," Muller says. "We're getting more into physics, more advanced geometry and list processing features of interest to older youngsters. Another thing I hope to foster is communication about Logo among school classes. We'll also provide conferences where Logo experts will be available to answer programming questions.

The forum will also feature online issues of Turtle News, the YPLA newsletter, and a comprehensive data library on Logo for users to download. "I see the forum as a chance to do a lot more things with a wider audience," says Muller, whose organization has members throughout the U.S. and in 40 foreign countries. "More and more clubs are getting involved in telecommunications, and I'm looking forward to having parts of the YPLA go online."

Peterson's College Database

Instead of spending time touring campuses or writing away for individual catalogs, users of this database can speed up the college selection process. Peterson's College Database is chock full of information on more than 3,000 schools in the U.S. and Canada. The database includes a school selection procedure based on the choices users make regarding location, size, courses of study and other factors. Or, users may request data on particular schools by making the appropriate menu choices.

Comprehensive data on each school includes general information on the campus setting, type of student body, its affiliations, whether it's public or private and student body characteristics. A separate file on freshman data for each school provides SAT score distributions, class rankings and percentage of scholarship recipients. Enrollment pattern statistics include data on the percentage of students receiving degrees and pursuing graduate study. Other files provide information on admissions options, graduation requirements, financial aid, special programs, career services, housing, athletics and other areas of interest to prospective students.

According to information provider Rebecca Shepherd, a typical information search for general information on a college may take only a couple of minutes. However, she adds, "Probably the foremost use of the database is by people who don't know what college they want to attend. The database leads these people through a whole series of decisions that narrow down their choices. I estimate that the typical search for a person going through that decision-making process online would be 15 minutes to half an hour, depending on how much information is requested."

Carole Houze Gerber is a contributing editor of Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,1215.*

Cincom Systems Inc. Relies on CompuServe's InfoPlex

Cincinnati-based Cincom Systems Inc. is the world's premier supplier of computer software products for domestic and international MIS applications. It offers products that span the gamut from industrial to governmental needs. Consequently, one of Cincom's needs is effective, far-ranging communications capabilities for the company's international marketing efforts.

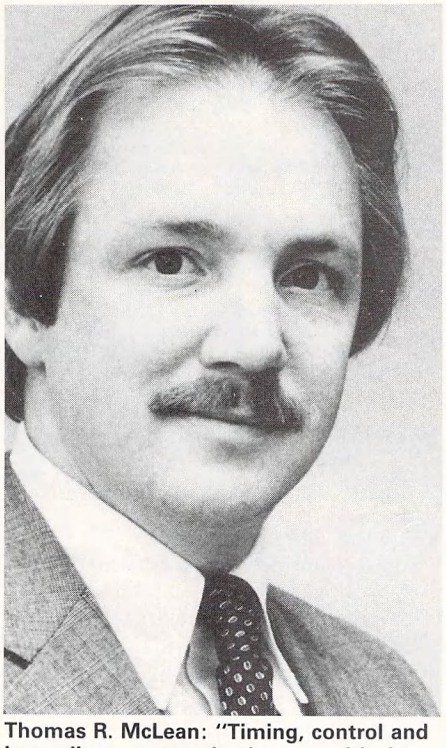
Founded in 1968, today Cincom has more than 1,400 employees in 65 countries and uses CompuServe's InfoPlex™ electronic mail communications to help manage its sales and engineering-support activities in domestic markets, as well as for its sales facilities throughout Europe, Asia, North and South America and Japan. Satellite telecommunications and traditional dedicated telephone lines form the international linkage by which Cincom's electronic mail communications are transmitted.

Electronic mail messages can be composed and retrieved in users' "electronic mailboxes" on an individual basis, or they can be sent en masse to predefined subsets within the Cincom marketing universe to address specific issues, opportunities and markets. The InfoPlex system is compatible with a wide range of terminals, microcomputers and communicating word processors, enabling international utilization of the system.

According to Thomas R. McLean, Cincom director of marketing and product planning, the benefits of precision and reliability offered by electronic mail are of particular value in activities such as new product introductions.

"Timing, control and immediate communication are critical to the successful development and release of new products," McLean says. "InfoPlex provides us a fully documented communications capability to make planned information instantly available to valid participants with minimum effort. Moreover, feedback and dynamic market data can be collected and forwarded automatically in pre-defined formats to predesignated mailboxes with built-in security to assure confidentiality of all communications."

Through its electronic communications system orchestrated by McLean, Cincom marketing representatives make



Thomas R. McLean: "Timing, control and immediate communication are critical to the successful development and release of new products."

use of over 40 different online forms to provide direct yet detailed accounts of their activities in the field. Among the forms are call profile reports, account activity reports and office and regional reports. Other standardized forms available via the Cincom communications system that reduce reporting time by simply prompting the user for information include forms for product prerelease, forecast/pipeline review, product installation progress, technical service request and numerous employee status reporting forms.

In new product introductions, McLean feels that the InfoPlex system provides him with a faster and more accurate picture of the sales group's "push" from the field in terms of creating sales and product awareness. Client receptivity for these new products can also more quickly be gauged and the net effect is twofold — a better informed field sales force and a marketing management staff that can more easily respond to market changes and new opportunities.

And in recognizing opportunities, McLean indicates that additional uses for InfoPlex within the firm's marketing group will be examined. "We are entering a second phase in our use of InfoPlex. Our first year was marked by heavy training and orientation to acquaint company associates with the concept and features of our system. We are now at the point where the benefits and reliabilty of the service are more widely understood and accepted. Today, the offices not on the system recognize their disadvantage and are requesting access and training.

"This new company capability is allowing our executives to leverage InfoPlex into application areas with tremendous potential for effectiveness because we can use InfoPlex daily. Interfaces with personal computers and word processors allow policy statements, proposals and promotional materials to be created offline and distributed instantly to any number of destinations with significant time and cost savings. The impact of faster turnaround is seen not only internally but also with customers and prospects."

Since the initial adoption of InfoPlex for electronic communications by McLean's marketing group, use of the capability has spread to other internal departments at Cincom. In addition to marketing and field sales applications, InfoPlex is now used for communications by the organization's technical service centers, its finance and administration departments, engineering group, international group and its licensee division.

According to McLean, another future use for InfoPlex at Cincom may be as a tool used to acquire data. "We are also starting to identify interfaces between InfoPlex and our substantial internal data processing. We think InfoPlex will eventually become an additional method to gather data for internal processing and also a vehicle for distributing information residing on the host computers. We also see potential to offer online access to our hosts to remote offices via the same CompuServe network and existing dial-up hardware."

— Richard Brownewell

Could *Your* Business be Affected By Happenings in the Computer World Today?

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CompuServe Information Service Top Menu, Money Menu and Business Menu.

The New CompuServe Information Service

New descriptive menus, improved navigational features and an Executive Service option highlight the new CompuServe Information Service, made available to all subscribers on July 16.

Subscribers who select the Executive Service option receive a variety of additional benefits including access to Ticker Retrieval, an investment management tool for investors with portfolios of any size or value; and Disclosure II, a resource for information about the activities of individual corporations. Other services include SuperSite, a comprehensive source for demographic data, and the Executive News Service, a news management service for automatically retrieving stories on topics you specify from the Associated Press newswires.

Additional benefits include a 50 percent increase in personal file storage; a 10 percent discount on the purchase of most CompuServe products; a bonus gift when you select the Executive Service option at sign-up; direct marketing offers for goods and services from CompuServe's affiliated merchants; enhanced customer support; and the option to select American Express as a monthly billing method.

Users of the Executive Service option agree to a $10 monthly usage minimum.

Customers who were Executive Information Service subscribers automatically received access to the Executive Service option in July when the revamped Information Service appeared. Users who subscribed to only the Consumer Information Service can elect the Executive Service option for a one-time $10 conversion fee. First-time CompuServe subscribers can sign up for the option for $5 if they take advantage of the offer during the sign-up procedure.

Some of the new features available to all subscribers include:

- CompuServe's main menu has been redesigned to be more descriptive so subscribers can more easily find products and services. Also, new descriptive prompts located at the bottom of most screens of information and menus have been added.
- A FIND command has been created to make finding services much easier. At most prompts, simply type the word FIND followed by a topic of interest, such as FIND SPORTS or FIND LOTUS. A menu of choices will appear. You can also use the Find a Topic option on the TOP menu page.
- A list of Quick Reference Words is available by typing GO QUICK at most prompts. Quick Reference Words allow fast access to services without using the menu pages. These Quick Reference Words are now displayed at the top of most associated pages.
- Redesigned menus also enhance the usefulness of the National Bulletin Board. Messages are easier to post and read.
- Articles are now automatically paged to fit your screen size.
- New subscribers to CompuServe will find the Tour option helpful in learning about the most popular and useful services. The Tour option is located on the Instructions menu or can be accessed via the command GO TOUR.
- At most prompts, you can type the word SET and then, by typing HELP at the "option" prompt, have the opportunity to change the way information from CompuServe is displayed on your personal computer or terminal screen.

— Robert Loomis

Enhancements to Executive News:

Faster, More Efficient

Enhancements to the Executive News Service on CompuServe have resulted in a more efficient and faster version of this timely product. In addition, a link to EasyPlex has been installed to allow ENS users to send stories of interest to other CompuServe subscribers.

A major improvement that subscribers using ENS notice when accessing the service is that the top menu now shows all of the clipping folders. These folders hold your criteria for clipping stories along with the stories gathered from the Associated Press wires. In addition, you are notified if your folder is full or about to expire, giving you the opportunity to change the termination date if you desire.

Also, you may now create up to three folders, each of which can contain up to seven key phrases. Each folder contains separate clipping criteria (wires to scan, words and phrases to search for) so that you may organize your folders by topic.

For example, if you were interested in information on new product releases from Apple Computer, you could enter the key phrase "Apple." However, you would clip many unrelated stories on apple harvests. A better key phrase would be "Apple" + "computer" which would clip stories containing both words (not necessarily next to each other). But this phrase may be too specific since the word "microcomputer" instead of "computer" might appear in a story. The best key phrase in this case would be "Apple + *computer*." The "wild card" symbol (*) stands for any letter or groups of letters at the beginning or end of a word. This key phrase would find stories containing the words Apple and computer, or Apple and computers, or Apple and microcomputer, etc.

Stories are automatically clipped around-the-clock, based on news wire, category or keyword phrases supplied by you. The clipping folders then store the articles for you to review at your convenience.

The new ENS version also permits you to review current news much faster since you are now prompted for a state code instead of having to view a listing of all 50 states before selecting the state you want.

The other major enhancement to ENS gives you the capability to send a story from your folder to another user via EasyPlex. When you are reading a story

that you know would be of interest to someone else, simply enter the command SEND followed by a User ID number. The story is then sent to that individual with the headline used as the EasyPlex subject.

AP, the largest news-gathering organization in the country, and recognized around the world for its quality of reporting, gathers, writes and edits all news stories. ENS subscribers have access to as many as 7,000 stories a day that come across the AP wires. This powerful service provides access to all of the AP state and national news wires, giving you the broadest news coverage available anywhere.

Using ENS, subscribers to CompuServe's Executive tier and Business Information Services can track such topics as legislation, competitors, economy, public image of their company and press releases that have been published in the news. Or, if you have moved out of state and want to keep track of what's going on in your home state, you can use ENS to track political races, legislation, industries, economy and sports.

ENS is still menu-driven and easy to use. Help is available at every prompt in the service. In addition to CompuServe's hourly connect rates, there is a $12.50 per hour surcharge during non-prime time regardless of baud rates and a $15 per hour surcharge during prime time regardless of baud rates. To access ENS, type GO ENS from any prompt.

— *Robert Loomis*

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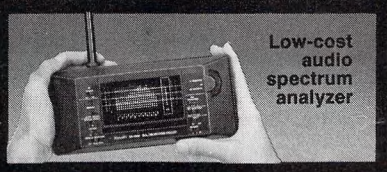

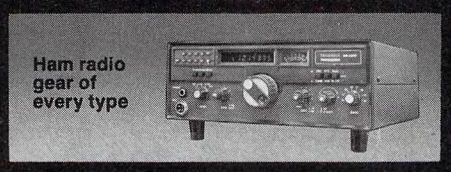

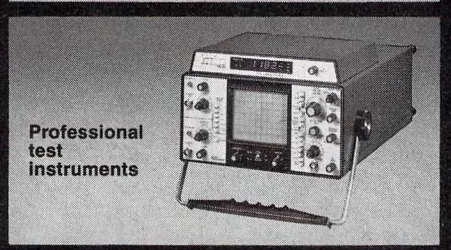

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Disclosure II:

Data on Companies

For individual investors and corporate users alike, the Disclosure II database on the CompuServe Information Service provides textual and financial information from reports filed by law with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Disclosure II version available to CompuServe's Business Information Service customers includes a refined search capability useful to corporations.

Initially, Disclosure II was accessible only by librarians and professional researchers who performed the search functions for individual users. According to Bob O'Malley, CompuServe financial product manager, Disclosure Inc. wanted to target individual users as well and therefore decided last year to offer the database as one of CompuServe's Executive products on the Information Service.

In Disclosure II a user can determine such information as a company's earnings growth, the names of its subsidiaries and the salaries of its top five executive officers. Corporate events, such as a company's acquisitions during the past year, are also included in the database.

More than 9,500 companies have listings in Disclosure II. The corporate officer file contains more than 150,000 names and there are 220,000 listed in the corporate owner file. Disclosure Inc., provider of the information, updates the database weekly as SEC filings are received.

The financial background material in Disclosure II includes the three most recent income statements and the two most recent balance sheets, key financial ratios, and sales and operating ratios for each of a company's reported divisions. The Disclosure/Spectrum ownership database, a related offering, contains more than 200,000 specific owners grouped into the categories of institutional, 5 percent beneficial and insider.

Information in Disclosure II comes from such SEC filing documents as the 10K — an annual document summary of the company's financial position, the 10Q — a quarterly report of financial position, the 8K — a report of outside events affecting the shareholders or SEC, and the proxy statement — a listing of issues stockholders will vote on at the annual meeting. In all, there are about 18 SEC filing documents used in compiling data for the Disclosure II database.

With this data, the individual investor can make informed decisions about when to buy and sell securities by comparing the financial status of various companies.

Greg Miller

CompuServe's Bob O'Malley: Investment banking firms are the most frequent users of the Disclosure II database.

O'Malley cites other applications of Disclosure II. A person about to interview for a position with a company could first do online research through Disclosure II to obtain financial background data. Another use is competitive analysis. Small business owners, for example, can do research on their competitors, because even companies with revenues of less than 20 million are listed. Executive search firms can use Disclosure II to find out the names and salaries of current company vice presidents if they are looking for a candidate to fill a position.

CompuServe's Business Information Service customers who use Disclosure II have some additional capabilities, because this version of the database includes a refined search program called CSCAN. For example, an executive could enter a set of search criteria like these: vice presidents in the oil industry with salaries of more than $200,000 in the state of Texas. Or a company executive may be gathering research on which other companies are worth consideration for investment or acquisition. He can specify the characteristics of companies he is looking for and then do further research on the list of candidates meeting the description.

In addition, an executive can mix the Disclosure II data with that from other financial databases on CompuServe. He may find the cost of an investment or acquisition and then include a report on the company's earnings estimates from data in I/B/E/S. COMPUSTAT II® and Value Line Data Base II data can also be merged with the information he collects from Disclosure II.

Investment banking firms are the most frequent users of the Disclosure II database, according to O'Malley. The Fortune 1000 companies as a whole constitute the largest number of users of the database. O'Malley says the most popular use of Disclosure II is for competitive analysis, especially to form merger and acquisition strategies.

"We use it mainly for screening," says Vicki Silverstein, vice president of corporate finance for Bear Stearns, an investment banking firm in New York. Silverstein says the firm uses Disclosure II to look at comparable companies so they can analyze a client company. In addition, Bear Stearns identifies companies in a particular industry that are potential acquisition candidates or even potential clients, by using the search capabilities of Disclosure II.

CompuServe Information Service subscribers who have the Executive Tier option may access Disclosure II by selecting "Corporate Reports" from the "Money Matters and Markets" section listed on the main menu. CompuServe Business Information Service users who do not currently have Disclosure II can contact their CompuServe account representative for information on how to obtain access to the database.

— Mary Mitchell

Entrepreneurs Link Up

Few business owners can function without input from others who have knowledge or skills in areas such as finance, marketing and business management. A new service on CompuServe, the U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network, links independent business people to others who can share helpful information.

Entrepreneurs, people who are considering going into business for themselves and consultants who serve entrepreneurs can use the U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network to share their problems and solutions while making contacts that may help them in their businesses. The service also includes resource information on many popular business-related topics.

"This product is the first of several new business/professional products planned for the coming year," says Marcia Haddox, CompuServe product manager. Since the Entrepreneurs' Network features a variety of information and contacts, it is useful to almost any type of business, according to Haddox.

The information provider for the Network is the Entrepreneurship Institute, a national non-profit Columbus, Ohio-based organization that also sponsors comprehensive two-day workshops for entrepreneurs in cities throughout the U.S. The Institute also operates person-to-person networking groups that meet regularly in several cities.

The Entrepreneurs' Network will serve as an electronic extension of the Institute for users in general. "There are two kinds of people who will be interested in what we're offering: the entrepreneur, who can make contacts that he can't find in his local community, and the person who provides services to entrepreneurs, whether it's an attorney or consultant," says John Anderson, director of the Entrepreneurs' Network for the Entrepreneurship Institute.

The data library available on the Network is a resource for both new and experienced entrepreneurs. It includes entries on such topics as: what it takes to be an entrepreneur, how to start a business, how to market, finance and manage that business, how to prepare a business plan, and how to find help through various business resources.

The section on what it takes to be an entrepreneur, for example, lists the 17 personal characteristics important for success as an entrepreneur and the 13 most common problems faced by entrepreneurs in small businesses.

The section on business resources covers such topics as entrepreneurs' frequent questions for bankers and when and how to choose a consultant.

Users can make contacts through the Network by stating their requests on the forum message board and by listing themselves — by name, state, business category and special interests — in the member directory.

The directory allows users to describe their interests by choosing from a standardized list of 18 business categories, such as accounting, education and franchising. Additional self-descriptive keywords may also be included. Keyword searching helps users to make the type of contacts they desire.

Through the conference mode, several users can simultaneously exchange information or "converse" online with experts in business-related fields. At least one such expert will have a conference each month.

Bulletins left by forum administrator Bruce Kullberg inform all forum members about scheduled conferences and about new entries in the forum's data library.

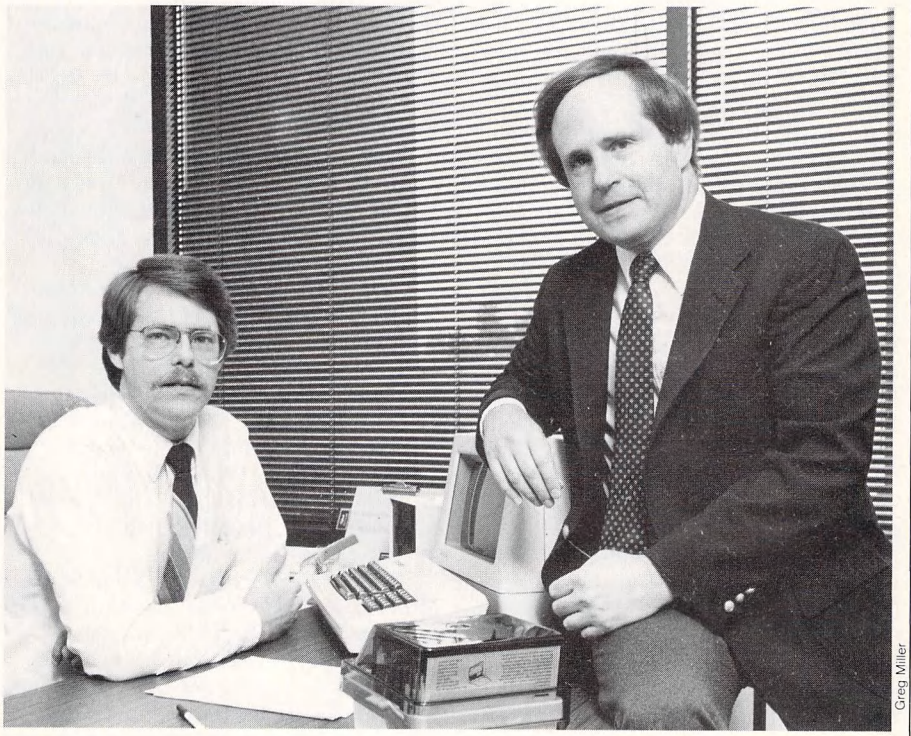
The service was established to meet the needs of entrepreneurs, as determined through Entrepreneurship Institute surveys. "An entrepreneur typically needs connections," says Anderson. "He's usually on his own, or even if he has an employee, he usually needs a number of connections for support and advice. It became clear that if we could provide some kind of computer link, we could create an electronic community of entrepreneurs and the people to serve them.

"This offers entrepreneurs a chance to make a connection with another person in the same business in another city who is not in competition with him," adds Anderson. With the threat of competition removed, information can be exchanged candidly and solutions to many business-related problems can be shared.

"This really has the potential of changing the way entrepreneurial business is done in the U.S.," says Anderson. "If people are at all interested, they should get involved with it, because that will create the critical mass of users that will make it work."

To access the U.S. Entrepreneurs' Network, type GO SFP-14 from any prompt on CompuServe.

— Kathy Baird



Greg Miller

Bruce Kullberg and John Anderson want to create an electronic community of entrepreneurs and the people to serve them.

PaperChase Offers Medical Information

Computerized retrieval of bibliographic references to biomedical literature is now less complex because of PaperChase, a new product on the CompuServe Information Service.

PaperChase is a computer program developed at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital to access the National Library of Medicine's Medline database without having to rely on the advanced research skills of a professional librarian. Medline is the online version of Index Medicus and is the most popular of the 15 computerized databases of medical literature maintained by the National Library of Medicine. This database contains medical information used by doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lawyers and consumers.

PaperChase is easy to search, with prompts and help information guiding the user through each step; no special formats or commands must be memorized. All entries in the Medline file dating from Janurary 1975 to today are contained in PaperChase. The more than 2.5 million references from more than 3,400 journals make this one of the most comprehensive medical research and patient care tools available to health care personnel. PaperChase also offers a number of advanced features, useful to experienced Medline users and reference librarians.

Searches can be conducted by title words, medical subject headings, subheadings, author's name, journal title, year of publication, language of publication and Boolean combinations (and/or/not) of each of these. Abstracts can be displayed and printed, although their contents cannot be searched.

In addition to CompuServe connect time charges, the user is assessed a surcharge of $24 per hour, making the CompuServe rate one of the lowest of all online services currently offering access to Medline. A typical search costs between $5 and $15, depending on how long it takes, how many lists are made, and how many references and abstracts are displayed or printed.

The principal developers of PaperChase — Howard L. Bleich, M.D., Gary L. Horwitz, M.D. and Jerome D. Jackson — wanted to design a computerized system that would be so easy to use that there would be no need for a user's manual. This was no simple task, considering few doctors actually accessed Medline themselves, but rather left that complicated job to the professional hospital librarians. Yet, the developers did what they set out to do, making the phrase "user friendly" take on new meaning, and for the first time health care personnel could effectively search the medical literature themselves.

"In our research we discovered that the probability of a successful search at the time of the first encounter is high, and as the user gains experience, the probability of success further increases," says Dr. Bleich, who is co-director of the computer medicine laboratory at Beth Israel Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

PaperChase is not only easier to use than the other programs used to search the Medline database, but it is also easier to access. Physicians no longer have to take time out of their schedules to go to the library to order a search; instead they can now do it from their home computers at any time day or night.

Telecommunications software that enables an MS-DOS computer to become a terminal emulator for accessing Medline is available through CompuServe's MEDSIG (GO AAMSI). In data library 4, the program (PAPER.BIN) and the documentation (PC.DOC) are both available for downloading.

As this article is going to press, the developers of PaperChase are working on a downloading feature to allow users to capture references and abstracts onto their own disk files.

Offline printing of specific journal references will also soon be available to CompuServe users of PaperChase. For $6 to cover postage and handling plus other applicable expenses such as online time, health care personnel will be to order online a complete listing of references and journal abstracts.

In the future, it will also be possible to order delivery of a copy of an entire article online. The article would then be sent through the mail and arrive within a few days.

To access PaperChase on CompuServe, type GO PCH at any prompt.

— Cathryn Conroy

Update-d Gift of Time

Online Today offers subscribers the chance to write a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Services.

Your essay should be typed double-spaced. Send it to *Online Today*, CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or by an Email message to 70003,1661. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

Should we use your column, you will receive 10 hours of standard service connect time (a $60 value) and a by-line.

PaperChase Fills Information Need

As a physician assistant working a busy outpatient clinic in rural Maine, I have need of up-to-date medical literature, of which there is an enormous amount. Since the nearest hospital library, a small one at that, is 19 miles away, computer access to a medical database via a modem makes sense.

There are currently several medical databases available for professional access. Some, such as AMA-Net, require a large sign-up fee (AMA-Net's fee of $100 is waived for AMA members, but that leaves me out.) Databases such as the National Institute of Health's PDQ, although low-cost, are limited in subject. PDQ, for example, is limited to the field of cancer.

I recently discovered PaperChase, accessible on CompuServe (GO PCH). This medical database and its search capabilities, developed at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, deserves the much-overused adjective "user-friendly" more than any program I have ever seen. A menu-driven program, it prompts the searcher gently, in plain English, toward his goal, even making search strategy suggestions along the way.

John C. O'Brien, P.A.
Gouldsboro, Me.

UPDATE

NEW PRODUCTS

BlackDragon Enhanced

The new version of the role-playing game *BlackDragon* is faster and more efficient due to revisions in programming. In *BlackDragon* you have the benefit of abilities to fight and create magic as you explore the labyrinth in search of treasure and adventure. GO GAM 295.

New Library in Lotus Forum

The Graphics Printer Library II is now available to allow the IBM and Compaq versions of 1-2-3 to support a total of 40 printers and plotters for graphics. The file can be downloaded from the data library in the 1-2-3 Forum or obtained on disk from an authorized Lotus dealer.

The Lotus Bibliography section now includes a comprehensive listing of third-party software products that work with Lotus 1-2-3 and/or Symphony. This information has been provided by the vendors of each product.

The Product News section contains information on additional supported hardware devices. Devices are continually being added to the "support list" for both 1-2-3 and Symphony. GO LOTUS.

Service About Micros in Health Field

The Micro MD Network provides health professionals, educators, corporate executives and programmers with the latest information on using microcomputers in the health field. This service contains a catalog of programs and hardware on the health care market, listings of consultants and meetings of interest to professionals, product evaluations, reviews of hardware and software, and interviews.

CompuServe subscribers can also obtain news about software for nutrition, diet and fitness. GO MDN.

Forum for Digital's VAX Users

Users of Digital Equipment Corp.'s VAX line of computers, the DEC PC or the UNIX operating system by AT&T may ask questions, share ideas and exchange public domain software in the VAX Forum.

Primarily set up for VAX users, the forum has sections for the DEC PC and UNIX systems. The DEC PC data library contains a range of CP/M and MS-DOS programs for the Rainbow, Robin and DECmate-II personal computers. The UNIX data library is supported by users of many variations of UNIX systems.

Conferences for topics concerning VAX computers are Sundays at 9:30 p.m. EDT and conferences on personal computers are Mondays at 9:30 p.m. EDT. GO PCS-16.

PRLink for PR Professionals

PRLink, sponsored by the Public Relations Society of America, offers members a job opportunities board, case studies and industry news. Members may order products from PRSA and participate in online conferences and professional development programs. PRSA charges an annual membership fee to use this service. PRLink also has an nonmember section for CompuServe subscribers who wish to learn more about PRlink and PRSA. GO PSG.

Answers From Customer Service

Q: Knowing how long an order will take to be delivered affects whether or not I want to place the order. How can I find out if an item is in stock before placing the order?
A: CompuServe's new Product Ordering area will inform you if an item is temporarily out of stock before prompting you to order. This way you will know how long it will take to deliver before entering the order.

Q: I would like to order VIDTEX™ for my computer, but I can't wait the three to four weeks requested. Is there any way to speed up the delivery process?
A: We will ship the item to you via UPS or U.S. Mail unless otherwise specified. This usually takes seven to 10 business days if the item is in stock at the time the order was placed.

If you would like the item faster than this, you now have the opportunity to have it sent to you via two-day express service for a $15 shipping and handling fee.

Your order will be shipped to you within two working days of the time it was placed. This offer is valid only within the contiguous United States.

Q: Am I charged for the time I spend in product ordering?
A: You are not charged for connect time when viewing descriptions or placing an order. You are, however, charged for any supplemental network charges, such as those for Tymnet and Telenet.

Q: When I am in Product Ordering, how can I check the total dollar amount spent on what I have ordered?
A: The new Product Ordering section offers a convenient command to check your orders while in the "View Descriptions/Place Order" mode. Simply type DIS to display your order.

Q: Something went wrong and I was disconnected in the middle of placing my order. Was my order recorded or should I reorder?
A: When back online, select menu option 3 "Check orders already placed" from the main ordering menu. If you see the message "No orders to review" then it has not been placed and you should order again.

— Mary Frances Fagan, Dave Smith, Kathy Hamilton, Karen Lindgren, Suzanne Larson

The Online Computer Connection

The Online Computer Connection, developed by Jameson Broadcast Inc. and sponsored by CompuServe Incorporated, is a daily syndicated radio series aired on stations in the top 100 markets in the country. The show is an invaluable resource for radio listeners interested in purchasing a personal computer or learning more about computers and their many uses. Experts in the computer industry discuss news and special features, provide consumer information and product reviews.

The Online Computer Connection news anchor, reporters and interviewers talk directly to top writers, reviewers and columnists from the most widely read computer publications and other computer industry experts.

"The goal of the series is to explore the phenomenal growth of personal computers within our society, and to examine some of the effects they will continue to have on our lives," says Richard Baker, director of corporate communications for CompuServe. "It will also provide practical, helpful information for computer owners and people thinking about purchasing a personal computer."

Additional advice is also available to CompuServe subscribers through the new Online Computer Connection Forum (GO OCC), making this radio show truly interactive. Managed by Charles Bowen, senior editor of *Online Today*, the forum complements the radio show and provides listeners with a chance to ask questions of the show's participants, request detailed information about various radio segments and suggest topics for future programs.

In addition, the OCC Forum serves as an electronic information bureau to help CompuServe subscribers navigate their way through the system. A special section titled "Where to find . . .?" can be especially useful to new subscribers looking for a particular service or online product.

Finally, the forum is a meeting place for readers of *Online Today*'s electronic and print editions. Questions, comments and suggestions on these publications are invited.

Make the Online Computer Connection — all it takes is your radio and the CompuServe command GO OCC.

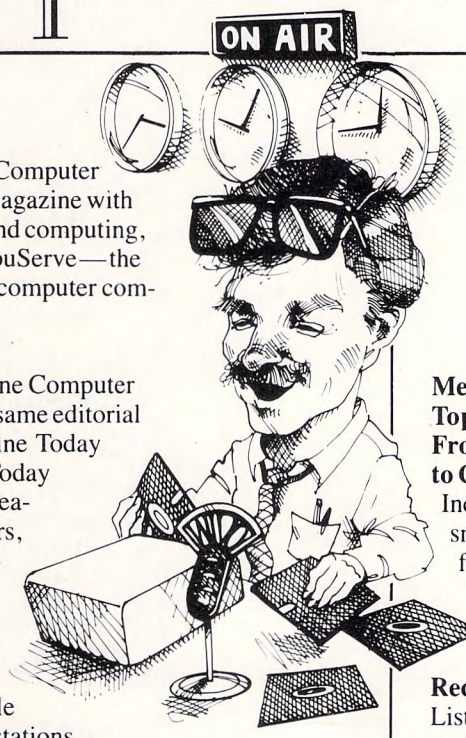
— Cathyrn Conroy

Where to Tune in Your Area
More stations plug into the Online Computer Connection every week. Look for the most current list in CompuServe's OCC Forum, or if you are not a subscriber, call CompuServe to find out the nearest station carrying the program. Watch local broadcast listings for news about the show. If the show does not air in your area, call your local station and have them contact Jameson Broadcast (614) 476-4424 for more information.

AZ, Tucson
KTUC-AM 1400 kHz
CA, Riverside
KGUD-AM 1490 kHz
CO, Denver
KDEN-AM 1340 kHz
DC, Washington
WNTR-AM 1050 kHz
DE, Wilmington
WILM-AM 1450 kHz
FL, Orlando
WKIS-AM 740 kHz
HI, Honolulu
KHVH-AM 990 kHz
IN, Indianapolis
WENS-FM 97.1 mHz
KS, Kansas City
KXTR-FM 96.5 mHz
KY, Paducah
WKYX-AM 570 kHz
MA, Springfield
WLDM-AM 1570 kHz
MD, Baltimore
WITH-AM 1230 kHz
NC, Charlotte
WGSP-AM 1310 kHz
NC, Raleigh
WPTF-AM 680 kHz
NH, Keene
WKNE-AM 1290 kHz
NY, Albany
WQBK-AM 1300 kHz
NY, Buffalo
WJJL-AM 1440 kHz
NY, Ellenville
WELV-FM 99.3 mHz
OH, Cincinnati
WNOP-AM 740 kHz
OH, Cleveland
WJW-AM 850 kHz
OH, Columbus
WCOL-AM 1230 kHz
PA, Philadelphia
WIP-AM 610 kHz
SC, Charleston
WKCN-AM 910 kHz
TN, Johnson City
WETB-AM 790 kHz
TX, Houston
KLEF-FM 94.5 mHz
VA, Richmond
WRVA-AM 1140 kHz
WS, Milwaukee
WISN-AM 1130 kHz

The Online Computer Connection is produced by Jameson Broadcast with offices in Washington, D.C. and Columbus, Ohio.

How To Access CompuServe By Radio



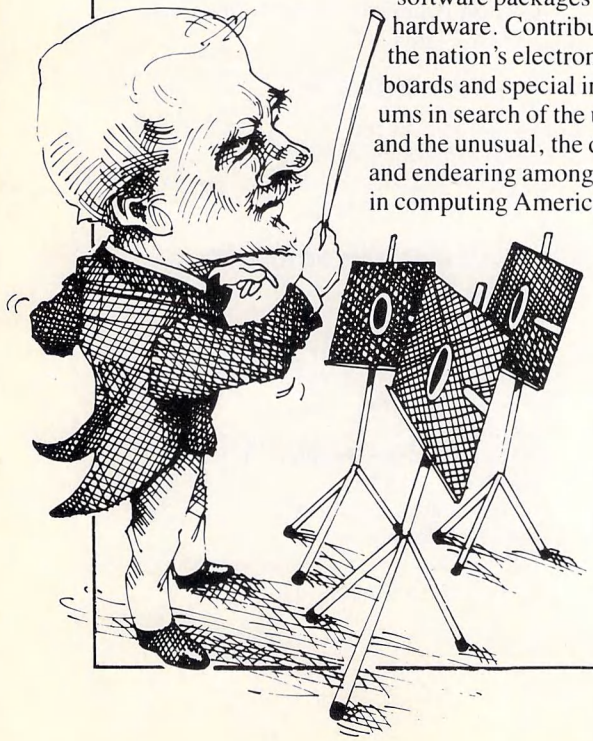
Introducing the Online Computer Connection . . . a radio magazine with features on computers and computing, brought to you by CompuServe—the country's leading microcomputer communication network.

Floppy Disk Jockeys

Contributors to the Online Computer Connection include the same editorial staff that produces Online Today magazine and Online Today Electronic Edition and features reporters, reviewers, interviewers and columnists from throughout the computer industry press. They contribute to a fast-paced, five-minute news capsule heard daily on selected stations and edited with the computer user foremost in mind.

Inside Jazz™, Symphony™, Music Construction Set™ and More

Besides computer consumer reports and product and book reviews, The Online Computer Connection covers the activity of groups using specific software packages and computer hardware. Contributors monitor the nation's electronic bulletin boards and special interest forums in search of the unique and the unusual, the daring and endearing among events in computing America.



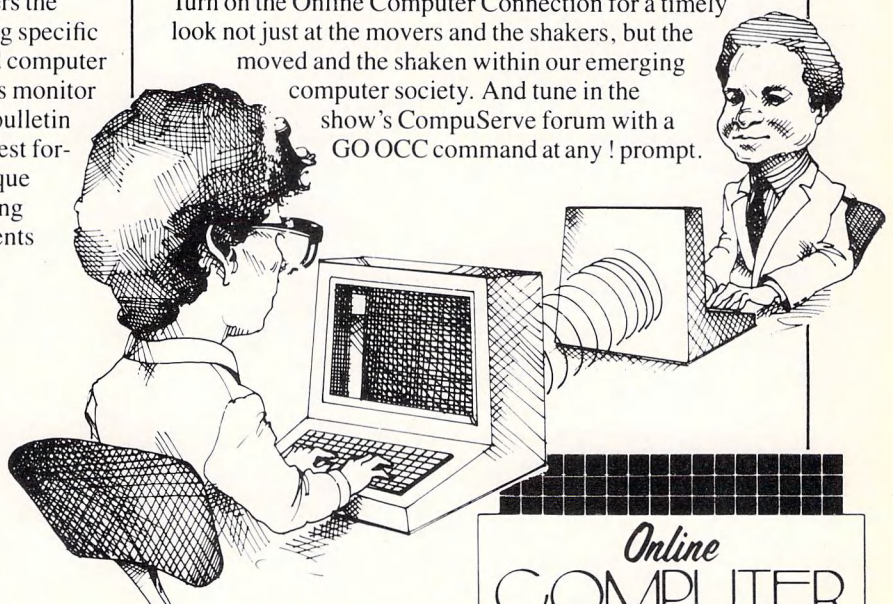
Meet Today's Top Artists—From Cottage Tinkerer to Corporate Titan

Incisive interviews with business personalities, big and small, bring authority to our analyses and vision to our forecasts. Whether discussing the creation of software or the retention of market share, Online Computer Connection guests illuminate topics shaping the microcomputer industry.

Request Lines are Open for CompuServe Subscribers

Listeners who also subscribe to the CompuServe Information Service can visit an online special interest group organized to support the show. Join this interactive forum to discuss features from the show with other listeners, retrieve transcripts, or make suggestions about future stories.

Turn on the Online Computer Connection for a timely look not just at the movers and the shakers, but the moved and the shaken within our emerging computer society. And tune in the show's CompuServe forum with a GO OCC command at any ! prompt.



Jazz™ and Symphony are trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. Music Construction Set is a trademark of Electronic Arts, Incorporated.

Online COMPUTER CONNECTION

Back-to-School At The Mall

In the time it takes to find a parking space at conventional shopping centers, you can visit three, four or more stores at The Electronic Mall™. This year you can take a fingertip shopping trip for all of your back-to-school needs. While others are in traffic jams on their way to summer clearances and Labor Day sales, you can complete your shopping in the comfort of your home.

With simple alphabetic commands and numbered selections, you can browse The Mall and shop 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After logging onto CompuServe, select The Electronic Mall from the main menu. Or, at any prompt, type GO MALL or GO SHOP.

Here's a sample of the back-to-school specials you'll find at The Mall:

(GO FF) Francois Truffaut's delightful film "Small Change" is one of over 100 classic and contemporary French films available from new Mall merchant French Films on Video.

(GO MV) Magic Castle Video will special order almost any movie for you. As school days approach, you might want to pick up the newly released film, "The Breakfast Club," the electrifying "Fame," or the all-time classic "The Graduate."

(GO BB) At Bantam Books, *Runaway Spaceship*, the newest release in the "Choose Your Own Adventure" series, lets you blast off to Mars where you meet up with aliens and endless adventure. New Bantam software for kids this fall includes *Fantastic Animals*, *Road Rally* and *Creative Contraptions*.

(GO ME) During September and October, save 25 percent on five top-selling magazines: *Time*, *People*, *Vogue*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Creative Computing*. Magazine Entree is a subscription service that features service, savings and a wide selection of magazines and periodicals.

(GO SR) Sears has it all for fall, from clothing to computers, to dress and educate your children. Check all of the back-to-school specials, plus the Electronic Bargain directory. Of course, Sears' 1985 Fall/Winter Big Book is now available.

(GO CE) Computer Express has the software to help you get the most from your Apple, Commodore 64 or IBM PC. You'll find: Harcourt Brace's *Computer Preparation for the SAT*, Timework's *Evelyn Wood Dynamic Reader*, Simon & Schuster's *Typing Tutor III*, and Professional Software's *Fleet System 2*, a complete word processing program with a built-in 70,000 word spelling checker.

(GO HH) Before sending your son or daughter off to college, a trip to The Hobbit Hole is a must. Pick up *The Starving Student's Cookbook*, a set of Starving Student postcards, a one-cup coffee dripolater or a chocolate floppy disk.

You'll find more for the college bound at new merchant Genovse Drugs. Pick up duffle bags, hair dryers, shavers and other select health and beauty items. Watch "New and Noteworthy" for the GO command.

(GO FP) No matter what state you're in, there's a T-shirt for you at Just-For-Fun. Order the catalog online and choose from "Neurotic State," "Erotic State," or "Catatonic State." Two other favorites include: "Can't Afford College" and "I Survived Catholic School."

(GO ATH) Adults and children will want to stock up on sweatshirts and sweatpants for fall at another new merchant, Athlete's Outfitter.

(GO LNX) Finally, to ensure you make it to class or work on time, Lenox of Fairfield is offering 25 percent off on all Seiko watches during August and September.

You'll find back-to-school savings at almost every Mall store. GO MALL.

AUTO SHOP

BU Buick

BOOK BAZAAR

WB Waldenbooks
RP Rodale Press
MH McGraw-Hill
BB Bantam Books

FINANCIAL MART

MET Metropolitan Life
CN Colonial National Bank
MU Max Ule & Co.
SI Select Info. Exchange
EL Equitable Life

LEISURE CENTER

MV Magic Castle Video
AO American Outdoorsman
SB Stark Brothers Nursery
BS Berry Scuba Co.
HF Carolina Health/Fitness

MERCHANDISE MART

KO Eastman Kodak Co.
SR Sears, Roebuck & Co.
AC Landmark Contracts
FP Just For Fun

NEWSSTAND

ME EBSCO Magazine Entree
CBS CBS Magazines
CW CW Communications
DJ Dow Jones & Co.
US USA Today
RP Rodale Press

ONLINE CONNECTION

EF E.F. Hutton
VL VideoLog Electronics
NN NewsNet
HB Harvard Business Review
BA Bank of America
OA Official Airline Guides

PERSONAL COMPUTER STORE

MO Misco Computer Supplies
SR Sears, Roebuck & Co.
MC MCTEL Telecommunications
CS Commodore Business Machines
MM Marymac Industries Inc.
MS Microsoft
HTH The Heath Corp.
CE Computer Express
BI Borland International
GE Grolier Software

RECORD EMPORIUM

RW Record World
RC RCA Record Clubs

SPECIALITY BOUTIQUE

BL Bloomingdale's by Mail
HH Hobbit Hole/Wyandotte Wines
VM VitaMenagerie
AXM American Express Shopping
LNX Lenox

TRAVEL AGENCY

AF Air France
AA American Airlines
WL Worldwide Exchange
HS The Homestead

NEW MALL MERCHANTS

Athlete's Outfitter
Baracuda Sports
Computer Discount of America
French Films on Video
Genovese Drugs
Icon Review
Manufacturers Jewelry Outlet
Milkins Jewelers
Pocklington Brothers
Pollack-Bailey
Riva Furs
Wayside Systems

HIGHLIGHTS

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF MANY SERVICES AVAILABLE ON THE COMPUSERVE INFORMATION SERVICE INCLUDING A COMPLETE SUBJECT INDEX.

COMMANDS

Contained in this volume of Highlights is Information/current as of June, 1985

Highlights, published by Online Today magazine, is your handy digest of CompuServe Information Service products and services.

Highlights contains the complete CompuServe Information Service subject index, including the "GO" page locations to find online items easily.

Also included are brief descriptions of many subjects and services available on CompuServe. Different subject items and services will be featured in each issue, so we suggest you keep successive issues of Highlights as handy references.

The following is a list of commands for using the CompuServe Information Service. Simply type the letter or letters preceding the definitions shown here and then press the ⟨ENTER⟩ or CARRIAGE RETURN key.

B — BACKWARD
this command will back you up and redisplay the page preceding the one you are reading.

F — FORWARD
this will take you FORWARD one page. It displays the next page in a series of pages. Pressing the ⟨ENTER⟩ or CARRIAGE RETURN key once will also display the next screen of information.

G — GO
the GO command will take you directly to a page specified by an information provider code and page number, for example, GO TRS-1. By typing GO, and the information provider code (no page number), you will be taken to the first page of the information provider area.

H — HELP
you will receive instructions after typing in HELP and pressing the ⟨ENTER⟩ or CARRIAGE RETURN key.

M — MENU
this means previous MENU. This command will take you to the menu page which directed you to the page you are currently reading.

N — NEXT
this command will take you to the NEXT topic listed on the menu on which you made your current topic choice. If you chose topic 5 on the most recent menu, then NEXT will display topic 6.

OFF
this command will disconnect you from CompuServe immediately after it is typed in and followed by an ⟨ENTER⟩ or CARRIAGE RETURN.

P — PREVIOUS
this command will take you to the PREVIOUS topic listed on the menu located before the one you chose to read. If you chose topic 5 on the most recent menu, then PREVIOUS will display topic 4.

S — SCROLL
this command will allow you to continuously print pages to your screen until the last page in a series is displayed. If you are at a menu page, typing S followed by the number which corresponds with the menu topic, will continuously print the pages related to that topic to your screen.

T — TOP
the TOP menu page. This takes you directly to the first page of the CompuServe database (CIS-1).

USER INFORMATION

The User Information main menu item contains information which is of interest to all customers. Some of the User Information items are:

Billing: Your Charges, Rates Options, Making Changes
provides you with information about your current and past charges for purchases and services used, displays the current rates for using the CompuServe Information Service, and allows you to change the existing information about your current credit card, or to enter another credit card choice.
GO BILLING

Change Terminal Settings
shows you how to specify terminal type, length of line, width of line, point of entry at log on, EasyPlex waiting notice at log on, etc. You can make the default settings permanent or temporary to that session.
GO CIS-40

Change Your Password
prompts you for your current password and then asks for your new choice of password. You are immediately notified when the password is changed successfully.
GO PASSWORD

Command Summary and Usage Tips
displays a brief description of the commands which can be used in the Videotex area.
GO CIS-4

Electronic Bounce Back
makes it easy for you to request free information from advertisers in *Online Today* magazine. Insert your name, address and names of any advertisers from whom you'd like information.
GO EBB

HIGHLIGHTS

Feedback to CompuServe
briefly describes how to use the Feedback service and then allows you to send comments, suggestions or questions to the Customer Service staff, etc. Your Feedback is read and responded to via EasyPlex to the same User ID which entered the message. Feedback responses are usually made within 48 hours after receipt by Customer Service. Your connect time is free while using this service, in the form of a credit given for the time you use Feedback. It is recommended that you use Feedback to communicate with the CompuServe Information Service.
GO FEEDBACK

Log on Instructions & Numbers
searches and displays the most up-to-date list of telephone access numbers by the state or area code you select. Pending and recent changes are available as well as a complete list by baud rate.
GO LOGON

Online Today Electronic Edition
an electronic extension of *Online Today* magazine. Contains daily-updated computer and videotex industry news; reviews of hardware, software and books; new product announcements; and a direct link to *Online Today* advertisers.
GO ONLINE

What's New
presents the new and enhanced features available from the CompuServe Information Service.
GO NEW

Subject Index
displays the entire Subject Index or searches and displays features by key word entry. It also lists the IP code/page reference for each item so you can use the G (GO) command to directly access the item of your choice.
GO INDEX

SUBJECT INDEX

The CompuServe Information Service subject index is updated constantly. For the most recent list of subjects and services, type GO INDEX.

This subject index is current as of June 1, 1985.

A

AAMSI Communications . GO AAM
AAMSI Forum .....GO SFP-5
ADCIS Forum ..... GO EDU-7
AOPA Forum.....GO AOP
AP Datastream ..... GO SPD-1005
AP Videotex, Business .... GO APV
AP Videotex, Entertain .... GO APV
AP Videotex, Politics ..... GO APV
AP Videotex, Weather..... GO APV
AP Videotex, World News . GO APV
ASCMD Forum.....GO SFP-7
ASI Flight Operations ... GO ASI-11
ASI Monitor .....GO ASI-10
ASI Service Difficulty....GO ASI-12
Academic Amer. Ency ..... GO AAE
Access Phone Nos ..... GO PHONE
Adult Education:
The College Board .....GO TCB
Adventure ..... GO GAM-8
Advertisers, Online Today:
Electronic Bounce Back..... GO EBB
Advertising:
Natl. Bulletin Board.....GO BULLET
The Electronic Mall..... GO EM
Advice:
Government Publications.... GO GPO
Human Sexuality..... GO HSX
Advisories, Travel:
Department of State..... GO DOS
Agri-Commodities.....GO ACI
Aircraft Insurance..... GO AVL
Altertext Report .....GO ALT
Annual Reports:
DISCLOSURE II Ⓔ ..... GO DIS-1
Standard & Poor's.....GO MMM-11
Value Line Financials ...GO MMM-10
Apple User Group SIG . GO PCS-51
Art, The World of ..... GO ART
Ask Mr. Fed Forum.... GO MMS-20
Astrology..... GO GAM-45
Astronomy:
Naked Eye Astronomy.....GO NIA
Atari SIG ..... GO PCS-132
Atlases:
TravelVision.....GO TRV
Attorneys:
Legal Forum.....GO SFP-40
Autos, Buying:
New Car Showroom.....GO ATO
StL Post-Disp., Autos..... GO SPD
Aviation:
ASI Flight Operations..... GO ASI-11
ASI Monitor ..... GO ASI-10
ASI Service Difficulty..... GO ASI-12
EMI Flight Planning .....GO EMI
NWS Aviation Weather ..... GO AWX
Aviation Forum ..... GO PF-10
Aviation Rules & Reg..... GO AVR
Aviation SIG (AVSIG).....GO SFP-6
Aviation Safety Institute....GO ASI
Aviation Weather ..... GO AWX

B

Backgammon..... GO GAM-31
Baffle Word Game ... GO GAM-526
Banking Services ..... GO BANK
Banks:
Huntington National Bank ... GO HNB
Shawmut Bank of Boston...GO SHW
United American Bank. GO HOM-152
Banshi..... GO GAM-30
Billing:
Monthly Charges..... GO BIL-5
Biorhythms..... GO GAM-29
Blackjack ..... GO GAM-60
Bridge..... GO GAM-18
Brokerage:
Max Ule's Tickerscreen .....GO TKR
Rapaport Diamond Broker... GO RDC
Unified Management .....GO UMC
Bulletin Board, Natl ....GO BULLET
Business & Law Review ... GO BLR
Business Information:
AP Videotex, Business..... GO APV
CP Business Info Wire..... GO BIW
The Business Wire.....GO TBW
Business News:
StL Post-Disp., Business .... GO SPD
Wash. Post, Business ... GO TWP-12

C

CB Interest Group SIG . GO HOM-9
CB Society ..... GO CUP
CEMSIG SIG ..... GO PCS-54
CP Business Info Wire..... GO BIW
CP/M Users Group SIG . GO PCS-47
Creative Computing..... GO CRE
Canadian News:
CP Business Info Wire..... GO BIW
Cars:
Auto Racing Forum..... GO RIS
New Car Showroom.....GO ATO
Changing Password.... GO CIS-175
Changing Terminal Type. GO CIS-40
Charges-to-Date:
Monthly Charges..... GO MON
Children's Games .....GO TMC-27
Citizen's Band Simulator .GO CB-10
Civil War ..... GO GAM-14
Classic Quotes.....GO TMC-7
Classified Ads:
StL Post-Disp., Autos..... GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., Classified ... GO SPD
CoalScoop.....GO CMP
College Planning:
The College Board .....GO TCB
College Press Service ..... GO CPS
Color Computer SIG .. GO PCS-126
Color Graphics..... GO CIS-91
Command Level:
Personal File Area..... GO CIS-174
Command Summary .... GO CIS-58
Commodities .....GO MMM-50
Commodity Markets:
News-A-Tron .....GO NAT
Commodore .....GO CBM
Commodore 64 SIG ... GO PCS-156
Commodore Prog. SIG .GO PCS-116
Com. VIC20&Pet/CBM . GO PCS-155
Communications Ind ....GO SFP-30
Comp-U-Store ..... GO CUS
Company Forecasts:
Value Line Projections ..GO MMM-10
Comparison Shopping, Autos:
New Car Showroom.....GO ATO
CompuServe Account Balance:
Monthly Charges..... GO MON
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CompuServe Logon Inst... GO LOG
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Computer Art SIG..... GO PCS-157
Computer Industry News:
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Computer Job Bank..... GO TDC-4
Computer Lang. Magazine. GO CLM
Computer Resume Bank. GO TDC-4
Computer Wire, The..... GO TDC-4
Computers & Electronics SIG:
CEMSIG SIG .....GO PCS-54
Comput. Across America .. GO CAA
Computing Tutorials .. GO PCS-121
Concentration ..... GO GAM-32
Cooking:
Electronic Gourmet.....GO HMS
Cupcake's Column:
CB Society ..... GO CUP

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DEFALT Parameters:
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DISCLOSURE II Ⓔ..... GO DIS-1
DISCOVER ORLANDO ..... GO ORL
DataPac Logon Instruct .GO LOG-41
Department of State .....GO DOS
Diamonds:
Rapaport Diamond Broker... GO RDC
Dice..... GO GAM-33
Digital Research Forum .GO PCS-13
Digital Research Inc.....GO DRI
Direct Connection, The.... GO TDC
Directory of Users:
User Directory..... GO CIS-50
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Documentation Ordering:
Product Ordering.....GO ORD
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Download Pricing Data.....GO MMM-56
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EMI Flight Planning ..... GO EMI
EPIE Database ..... GO EPI
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EasyPlex.....GO EASY
Economics:
Money Market Services.... GO MMS
Editorials:
Wash. Post, Editorials .....GO TWP
Educ. Research Forum. GO HOM-28
Education:
ADCIS Forum..... GO EDU-1
Academic Amer. Ency ..... GO AAE
College Press Service ..... GO CPS
EPIE Database..... GO EPI
Educators Forum..... GO EDU-4
Edutech..... GO CAI
Edutech Project Pilot ..... GO CAI
Hand. Users' Database .....GO HUD
Science Educ. Forum .... GO EDU-13
TELE Forum ..... GO EDU-11
TELECUE Forum ..... GO EDU-12
The Multiple Choice .....GO TMC
The Whiz Quiz..... GO EDU-24
Educ. Research Forum... GO EDU-1
Educators Forum..... GO EDU-4
Edutech .....GO CAI
Edutech Project Pilot.....GO CAI
Electronic Bounce Back ... GO EBB
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Electronic Mail:
EasyPlex..... GO EASY
Employment Opportunities:
Computer Job Bank.....GO TDC-4
Computer Resume Bank...GO TDC-4
Direct Connection, The ..... GO TDC
StL Post-Disp., Jobs..... GO SPD
Encyclopedia:
Academic Amer. Ency ..... GO AAE
Entertainment:
Hollywood Hotline..... GO HHL
Movie Reviewettes..... GO NMM
Primetime Radio Classics ... GO PRC
RockNet ..... GO ROK
Showbizquiz ..... GO SHOWBIZ
The National Satirist.....GO KCS
The Whiz Quiz.....GO HOM-13
Video Information ..... GO VIF
Words of Wit & Wisdom.. GO WWW
Entertainment News:
AP Videotex, Entertain..... GO APV
Hollywood Hotline..... GO HHL
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Ask Mr. Fed Forum..... GO MMS-20
Fedwatch Newsletter..... GO MMS
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Fifth Avenue Shopper ..... GO FTH
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Financial Services..... GO FIN-20
Financial Statements:
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Fire Fighters' SIG .....GO SFP-36
Flight Planning:
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Flight Planning:
EMI Flight Planning .....GO EMI
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Forecasts:
MMS/Daily Comment ..... GO DC
MMS/Fedwatch..... GO FW
Money Market Services.... GO MMS
Forecasts, Weather:
NOAA Weather Wire .....GO WEA
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AAMSI SIG.....GO AAMSI
ADCIS Forum..... GO ADCIS
Aopa Forum ..... GO AOP
Apple User Group SIG....GO PCS-51
Atari SIG.....GO ATARISIG
Auto Racing Forum..... GO RIS
Aviation SIG (AVSIG).....GO AVSIG
CB Interest Group SIG.... GO CBSIG
CEMSIG SIG .....GO CEMSIG
CP/M Users Group SIG ..GO CPMSIG
Creative Computing ..... GO CRE
Color Computer SIG..... GO COCO
Commodore 64 SIG ..... GO C64SIG
Commodore Prog. SIG.. GO CBMSIG
Com. VIC20&Pet/CBM...GO PCS-155
Communications Ind ..... GO SFP-30
Computer Art SIG.....GO PCS-157
Digital Research Forum...GO PCS-13
EPIE Forum ..... GO EPIE FORUM
Educ. Research Forum...GO HOM-28
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Environmental Forum..... GO SFP-38
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Family Computing Forum ... GO FAM
Fire Fighters' Forum..... GO SFP-36
Game SIG.....GO GAM-310
Good Earth Forum .... GO HOM-145
HamNet Forum .....GO HOM-11
Heath User Group SIG.... GO HEATH
Human Sexuality.....GO HSX-18
IBM PC SIG ..... GO IBMSIG
Kaypro Users Forum.....GO PCS-25
Legal Forum.....GO LAWSIG
Literary Forum..... GO HOM-136
Logicial Systems SIG.....GO PCS-49
MUSUS SIG.....GO PCS-55
MicroPro Forum .....GO PCS-29
Microsoft SIG..... GO MSOFT
Military Veterans Services....GO VET
Miner's Underground.....GO SFP-44
Multi-Player GameSIG ..GO GAM-300
Music Forum ..... GO HOM-150
Natl. Issues Forum .... GO HOM-132
OP-NET SIG .....GO OPNET
OS9 SIG .....GO PCS-18
Ohio Scientific SIG .....GO PCS-125
Orch-90 SIG .....GO PCS-15
Outdoor Forum .....GO HOM-38
PDP-11 .....GO PCS-53
PR and Marketing Forum . GO SFP-48
Panasonic SIG .....GO PCS-114
Pascal SIG .....GO PCS-55
Political Forum.....GO HOM-41
PowerSoft's XTRA-80.....GO PCS-56
Programmer's SIG .....GO PCS-158
RCA SIG .....GO PCS-57
Religion Forum .....GO HOM-33
RockNet ..... GO ROK
Science Educ. Forum...GO SCIENCE
SCI-FI Forum .....GO HOM-29
Ski Forum.....GO HOM-36
Space SIG..... GO HOM-127
Sports Forum..... GO HOM-110
TRS-80 Prof. Forum .....GO PCS-21
TRS-80 Model 100 SIG .GO M100SIG
Tele Forum ..... GO TELEFORUM
TeleComm SIG.....GO PCS-52
TeleCue Forum .....GO TELECUE
Texas Instruments Forum .GO PCS-27
Travel SIG ..... GO HOM-157
VAX SIG .....GO PCS-16
Whole Earth Software SIG ..GO WEC
WITSIG .....GO HOM-12
Work-at-Home Forum.. GO HOM-146
The World of Lotus.....GO LOTUS
Writers and Editors SIG..GO PCS-117
Fur Trader ..... GO GAM-36

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Game SIG ..... GO GAM-310
GameSIG Archives.....GO GSA
Games:
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Astrology .....GO GAM-45
Backgammon.....GO GAM-31
Baffle Word Game .....GO GAM-526
Banshi .....GO GAM-30
Biorhythms.....GO GAM-29
Blackjack.....GO GAM-60
Bridge .....GO GAM-18
Children's Games ..... GO TMC-27
Civil War .....GO GAM-14
Classic Quotes ..... GO TMC-7
Concentration .....GO GAM-32
Dice .....GO GAM-33
Dor Sageth.....GO GAM-527
Fantasy .....GO GAM-16
FasterMind.....GO GAM-17
Flying Buffalo.....GO GAM-41
Football .....GO GAM-27
Fur Trader .....GO GAM-36
Golf .....GO GAM-21
Gomoku .....GO GAM-22
Hammurabi.....GO GAM-37
Hangman .....GO GAM-23
Kesmai .....GO GAM-46
Lunar Lander .....GO GAM-24
Magic Cube Solution ....GO GAM-35
Maze .....GO GAM-38
MegaWars I.....GO GAM-209
MegaWars III .....GO GAM-105
Mugwump .....GO GAM-39
New Adventure .....GO GAM-59
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Roulette .....GO GAM-42
Scott Adams' Games....GO GAM-28
Scramble.....GO GAM-43
SeaWar .....GO GAM-57
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Space Trek .....GO GAM-26
Space War .....GO GAM-25
State Capital Quiz..... GO TMC-44
Trivia Test .....GO TMC
Wumpus.....GO GAM-44
Golf ..... GO GAM-21
Golf, Official PGA Guide...GO PGA
Gomoku..... GO GAM-22
Good Earth Forum ... GO HOM-145
Government Publications..GO GPO
Graphics:
Color Graphics..... GO CIS-91
Green Sheets:
Standard & Poor's.....GO MMM-11
Guides:
Incorporating Guide .....GO INC
Pan Am Travel Guide .....GO PAN
Product Ordering.....GO ORD

H

HamNet Forum ..... GO HOM-11
Hammurabi..... GO GAM-37
Hand. Users' Database ....GO HUD
Hangman..... GO GAM-23
Healthcom..... GO HCM
HealthNet ..... GO HNT
Heath User Group SIG . GO PCS-48
Help:
Command Summary ..... GO CIS-4
Hewlett-Packard ..... GO PCS-28
Historical Pricing.....GO MMM-45
Hollywood Hotline ..... GO HHL
Home Shopping:
Comp-U-Store ..... GO CUS
Fifth Avenue Shopper.....GO FTH
MicroShoppe .....GO MCS
Primetime Radio Classics ... GO PRC
Savings-Scan .....GO SAV
The Electronic Mall..... GO EM
Hotline:
Commodore.....GO CBM
HUG:
Heath User Group SIG....GO PCS-48
Human Sexuality.....GO HSX
Humor:
The National Satirist .....GO KCS
WITSIG .....GO HOM-12
Huntington National Bank.GO HNB

I

IBM PC Forum ..... GO PCS-131
IIAA.....GO INS
INTEREX ..... GO PCS-28
Incorporating Guide.....GO INC
Index.....GO IND
Index Oscillators:
News-A-Tron .....GO NAT
Indices:
Current Day Quotes.....GO MMM-4
Ind. Hygiene Forum .....GO SFP-47
Ind. Standard Databases .GO TDC-4
InfoText..... GO IFT
InfoWorld.....GO INF
Information On Demand....GO IOD
Insurance, Aircraft:
Aircraft Insurance .....GO AVL
Insurance, Home-Auto:
IIAA .....GO INS
Intelligence Test .....GO TMC-32
Internal Revenue Services ..GO IRS
Investments:
Commodities .....GO MMM-50
Current Day Quotes.....GO MMM-4
Donoghue Organization .....GO DON
Exp. Inv./MicroQuote II .GO MMM-19
Historical Pricing .....GO MMM-45
Max Ule's Tickerscreen .....GO TKR
MicroQuote .....GO MMM-5
Portfolio Valuation .....GO MMM-49
Quick Quote.....GO MMM-5
Ticker Retrieval Ⓔ.....GO TIC-1
World-Wide Investment Sys GO WIS-1
Investors Forum .....GO MMM-18
Issues, Legal:
Legal Forum.....GO SFP-40

K

Kaypro Users Forum ... GO PCS-25
Kesmai ..... GO GAM-46

L

Legal:
Incorporating Guide .....GO INC
Legal Forum .....GO SFP-40
Literary Forum..... GO HOM-136
Loan Amortization .... GO HOM-17
Logging On:
CompuServe Logon Inst .... GO LOG
DataPac Logon Instruct.. GO LOG-41
TYMNET Logon Instruct . GO LOG-11
Telenet Logon Instruct... GO LOG-20
Logicial Systems SIG... GO PCS-49
Lunar Lander ..... GO GAM-24

M

MAUG:
Apple User Group SIG....GO PCS-51
MMS/Daily Comment ..... GO DC
MMS/Fedwatch ..... GO FW
MUSUS SIG ..... GO PCS-55
Magazines:
Altertext .....GO ALT
Antic ..... GO ANTIC
Computer Language.....GO CLM
Creative Computing ..... GO CRE
Family Computing.....GO FAM
Online Today .....GO OLT
The Direct Connection..... GO TDC
Magic Cube Solution.. GO GAM-35
Manuals:
Product Ordering.....GO ORD
Max Ule's Tickerscreen.... GO TKR
Maze..... GO GAM-38
Meal Planning:
Electronic Gourmet.....GO HMS
Medical:
AAMSI Communications....GO AAM
FOI Newsline - FDA Info .....GO FOI
Healthcom .....GO HCM
HealthNet ..... GO HNT
Micro-MD ..... GO MDN
PaperChase ..... GO PCH
MegaWars I..... GO GAM-209
MegaWars III..... GO GAM-105
Micro-MD ..... GO MDN
MicroQuote.....GO MMM-5
MicroShoppe .....GO MCS
Microcomputers:
Tandy Newsletter .....GO TRS
Microsoft SIG..... GO PCS-145
Military Veterans Services. GO VET
Mine-Equip ..... GO MIN-100
Miner's Underground ...GO SFP-44
Money Market:
Unified Management .....GO UMC
Money Market Services .. GO MMS
Monthly Charges ..... GO MON
Movie Reviewettes.....GO NMM
Mugwump ..... GO GAM-39
Multi-Play GameSIG . GO GAM-300
Multi-Player Games:
MegaWars I .....GO GAM-209
MegaWars III .....GO GAM-105
SeaWar .....GO GAM-57
Space War .....GO GAM-25
Music Forum ..... GO HOM-150

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NOAA Weather Wire ..... GO WEA
NTSB Cases:
Aviation Rules & Reg .....GO AVR
NWS Aviation Weather... GO AWX
Naked Eye Astromony .....GO NIA
Narrow-Gage Scout .....GO LMC
Natl. Bulletin Board ....GO BULLET
Natl. Issues Forum... GO HOM-132
National Satirist, The ..... GO KCS
Natl. Water Well Assoc...GO WWA
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News:
AP Datastream ..... GO SPD-1005
AP Videotex, Business..... GO APV
AP Videotex, Entertain..... GO APV
AP Videotex, Politics ..... GO APV
AP Videotex, Weather ..... GO APV
AP Videotex, World News... GO APV
CP Business Info Wire..... GO BIW
College Press Service ..... GO CPS
Government Publications.... GO GPO
Hollywood Hotline..... GO HHL
Online Today .....GO OLT
Sports News .....GO SPORTS
The Business Wire.....GO TBW
News-A-Tron ..... GO NAT
Newsletters:
AAMSI Communications....GO AAM
Altertext Report.....GO ALT
Commodore.....GO CBM
Computer Wire, The.....GO TDC-4
Digital Research Inc.....GO DRI
Direct Connection, The ..... GO TDC
Fedwatch Newsletter..... GO MMS
Ind. Standard Databases...GO TDC-4
Tandy Newsletter .....GO TRS
Newspapers ..... GO HOM-10
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Wash. Post, Editorials ..... GO TWP
NIPSIG:
Natl. Issues Forum.... GO HOM-132
Node Abbreviations.... GO LOG-51

O

OP-NET SIG .....GO SFP-50
OS9 SIG..... GO PCS-18
OSI (SIG):
Ohio Scientific SIG .....GO PCS-125
Official Airline Guides ....GO OAG
Ohio Scientific SIG.... GO PCS-125
Olympic Scoreboard ..... GO OLY
Online Index:
Index .....GO IND
Online Today .....GO OLT
Orch-90 SIG ..... GO PCS-15
Outdoor Forum ..... GO HOM-38

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PDP-11 ..... GO PCS-53
PGA Official Tour Guide ...GO PGA
PR and Marketing ForumGO SFP-48
PUG:
Panasonic SIG .....GO PCS-114
Pan Am Travel Guide..... GO PAN
PaperChase..... GO PCH
Pascal:
MUSUS SIG.....GO PCS-55
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Password, Changing:
Changing Password ..... GO CIS-175
Personal Computing ..... GO PCS
Personal File Area..... GO CIS-174
Personal Finance:
Home Management .....GO HOM-80
Personal Menu..... GO CIS-33
Personality Profile..... GO TMC-17
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Wash. Post, Politics ..... GO TWP-15
Politics:
AP Videotex, Politics ..... GO APV
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Problems:
Feedback to CompuServe.. GO FEED
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Questions:
Feedback to CompuServe.. GO FEED
Quick Quote.....GO MMM-5
Quick Reference List ...GO CIS-185
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RCA SIG..... GO PCS-57
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Rates:
CompuServe Rates..... GO BIL
Ratios:
Value Line Financials ...GO MMM-10
Real Estate:
StL Post-Disp., Real Est..... GO SPD
World-Wide Investment Sys GO WIS-1
Recipes:
Electronic Gourmet.....GO HMS
Recreation:
WorldWide Exchange..... GO WWX
Reference:
Reference Library .....GO HOM-20
Religion Forum ..... GO HOM-33
Research:
Educ. Research Forum...GO HOM-28
Government Publications.... GO GPO
InfoText ..... GO IFT
Information On Demand .....GO IOD
Reversi ..... GO GAM-40
Road Maps:
TravelVision.....GO TRV
RockNet..... GO ROK
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Savings-Scan ..... GO SAV
SCI-FI Forum..... GO HOM-29
Satire:
The National Satirist.....GO KCS
Science Educ. Forum ... GO EDU-13
SCI-FI/Fantasy Forum.. GO HOM-29
Scott Adams' Games.. GO GAM-28
Scramble ..... GO GAM-43
SeaWar..... GO GAM-57
Services for Handicapped:
Hand. Users' Database ..... GO HUD
Shareholders Freebies..... GO FRE
Shawmut Bank of Boston .GO SHW
Shop-at-Home:
Comp-U-Store ..... GO CUS
Electronic Mall..... GO EM
Shop-at-Home .....GO SHOP
Showbizquiz.....GO SHOWBIZ
Ski Forum ..... GO HOM-36
Skiers Information Service .GO SKI
Social Security Admin..... GO SSA
Society of Mining Engrs...GO SME
Software Reviews:
Whole Earth Software SIG ..GO WEC
Space SIG ..... GO HOM-127
Space Trek..... GO GAM-26
Space War..... GO GAM-25
Sports:
Auto Racing Forum..... GO RIS
Olympic Scoreboard.....GO OLY
PGA Official Tour Guide..... GO PGA
Skiers Information Service ... GO SKI
Sports Forum..... GO HOM-110
Sports News .....GO SPORTS
Sports Weather Forecasts...GO WEA
Sports News:
AP Datastream ..... GO SPD-1005
StL Post-Disp., Sports ..... GO SPD
Wash. Post, Sports.....GO TWP
Sports Forum..... GO HOM-110
StL Post-Disp., Autos..... GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., Business... GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., Classified .. GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., Jobs..... GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., Real Est ... GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., Sports..... GO SPD
StL Post-Disp., U.S. News . GO SPD
Standard & Poor's ....GO MMM-11
State Capital Quiz .....GO TMC-44
Stevens Business Reports . GO SBR
Stocks:
Max Ule's Tickerscreen .....GO TKR
Stocks, Bonds:
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Historical Pricing .....GO MMM-45
MicroQuote .....GO MMM-5
Quick Quote.....GO MMM-5
Ticker Retrieval Ⓔ.....GO TIC-1
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Feedback to CompuServe.. GO FEED

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TELE Forum ..... GO EDU-11
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TRS-80:
Color Computer SIG.....GO PCS-126
TRS-80 Prof. Forum .... GO PCS-21
TRS-80:
Tandy Newsletter .....GO TRS
TRS-80 Model 100 SIG .GO PCS-154
TYMNET Logon Instruct GO LOG-11
Tandy Newsletter ..... GO TRS
Tax Laws:
Stevens Business Reports .. GO SBR
Teachers:
Educ. Research Forum...GO HOM-28
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Access Phone Numbers . GO PHONE
Terminal Software ..... GO PCS-20
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Texas Instru. Forum .... GO PCS-27
Text Editors..... GO PCS-20
Text Retrieval:
InfoText ..... GO IFT
Information On Demand .....GO IOD
The Business Wire .....GO TBW
The College Board ..... GO TCB
The Multiple Choice.....GO TMC
Ticker Retrieval Ⓔ ..... GO TIC-1
Touch-Type Tutor.....GO TMC
Travel:
A-Z Hotel Database.....GO ATZ
Official Airline Guides..... GO OAG
Travel Fax ..... GO ESC
Travelshopper.....GO TWA
TravelVision.....GO TRV
West Coast Travel.....GO WCT
WorldWide Exchange..... GO WWX
Travel Fax ..... GO ESC
Travel SIG ..... GO HOM-157
Travel Abroad:
Department of State..... GO DOS
Travelshopper.....GO TWA
TravelVision ..... GO TRV
Trivia Test .....GO TMC

U

U.S. News:
Fed. Registery Highlights ... GO GPO
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Wash. Post, U.S. News ..... GO TWP
Unified Management..... GO UMC
United Amer. Bank... GO HOM-152
User Directory ..... GO CIS-50

V

VAX SIG..... GO PCS-16
VIDTEX Information.....GO VID
Vacations:
WorldWide Exchange..... GO WWX
Value Line Financials..GO MMM-10
Value Line Projections.GO MMM-10
Video Information..... GO VIF
Videocassette Releases:
Video Information ..... GO VIF

W

Wanted:
Bulletin Board .....GO BULLET
Wargames:
MegaWars I.....GO GAM-209
MegaWars III.....GO GAM-105
Space War .....GO GAM-25
Wash. Post, Business...GO TWP-12
Wash. Post, Editorials.....GO TWP
Wash. Post, Financial.....GO TWP
Wash. Post, Gov't News...GO TWP
Wash. Post, Politics ....GO TWP-15
Wash. Post, Sports.....GO TWP
Wash. Post, U.S. News....GO TWP
Wash. Post, World News ..GO TWP
Weather:
AP Videotex, Weather ..... GO APV
Aviation Weather.....GO AWX
NOAA Weather Wire .....GO WEA
NWS Aviation Weather .....GO AWX
West Coast Travel.....GO WCT
What's New ..... GO NEW
The Whiz Quiz.....GO EDU-24
Whole Earth Software SIG GO WEC
WITSIG..... GO HOM-12
Words of Wit & Wisdom .GO WWW
Work-at-Home Forum .GO HOM-146
World of Lotus.....GO LTS
World News:
AP Videotex, World News... GO APV
Wash. Post, World News ... GO TWP
WorldWide Exchange.....GO WWX
World-Wide Invest. Sys.. GO WIS-1
Wumpus ..... GO GAM-44

HOME SERVICES

Forums *GO FORUMS*

Games
a forum dedicated to dialog about online games and game playing including walk-through and hints to mastering the more challenging adventure and maze, role-playing and multi-player games.
GO GAMSIG

Good Earth
a forum dedicated to discussing home-steading, gardening, folkways, home management, alternative life styles and energy conservation.
GO HOM-145

Ham Radio Operators Network
a forum dedicated to discussions of private radio operators.
GO HAMNET

Literary
a forum dedicated to the discussion of writing and publishing for both the professional and amateur. Frequent conferences focus on poetry, jokes and screen writing.
GO HOM-136

Music
a forum for discussing classical, jazz, popular, blues, country & western, rock and foreign music. This group also has an instrument exchange section.
GO HOM-150

National Issues and People
a forum focusing on any current public issue of national scope and impact, as well as on noteworthy people in the news.
GO HOM-132

Orchestra 90
a forum dedicated to computer based music composition. This includes the Radio Shack Orchestra 90 software series.
GO PCS-50

Religion Forum
a forum dedicated to dialogue and information exchange concerning all religions of the world as well as religious experience generally.
GO RELIGION

RockNet
a database with information about MTV happenings and upcoming rock concerts, album reviews and interviews with rock musicians. RockNet's forum offers a way to exchange messages with other rock music fans.
GO ROCK

HIGHLIGHTS

Sci-Fi Forum
a forum dedicated to those interested in science-fiction and fantasy. Whether you're interested in the latest *Doctor Who* or *Star Trek* information, or just want to take part in a conference with a famous writer, you'll enjoy the SCI-FI Forum.
GO SCI-FI

Space
a forum for users interested in all aspects of space exploration, travel, colonization, research and development and related activities. NASA news releases are posted regularly in this bulletin board.
GO HOM-127

Sports
a forum dedicated to discussion of all the major sports and sporting events.
GO SPORTS

Travel Forum
a forum for discussing vacationing and travel throughout the world. Users contribute experiences and advice about places to go and things to do and see. Find the best hamburger stand in Tunisia through the adventures of the Travel Forum and its members.
GO HOM-157

WITSIG
a forum dedicated to expressing humor through satire, parody, jokes, facetious dialog, skits and short fiction.
GO WIT

Working From Home
a forum for discussing issues and concerns of people who work at home using microcomputers to conduct or support their work efforts.
GO HOM-146

Games *GO GAMES*

Black Dragon
a fantasy role-playing game with the object of accumulating gold treasure and converting it into experience points. The final goal is to conquer the arch demon.
GO BLACKDRAGON

Dor Sageth
a textual adventure game in which you explore the disabled, alien starship, Dor Sageth, and try to get it back to earth.
GO GAM-527

Flying Buffalo
a play-by-mail company with two games, Heroic Fantasy and Galactic Conflict. CompuServe sends back your results via EasyPlex messages.
GO BUFFALO

SeaWar
multi-player game of high seas adventure that can be played by the novice as well as expert game players.
GO SEAWAR

Communications *GO COM-1*

CB Simulation
a 36-channel CB Simulator that allows any number of users to converse via their individual terminals in open, private or encoded modes. Users can tune to any of the 36 channels and monitor several channels at once.
GO CB

CB Society
a frequently updated social interest publication featuring new CB Simulator users, in-depth personal interviews with noteworthy subscribers, CB party reports and social news items about CB users.
GO CUPCAKE

EasyPlex
an electronic mail service which enables users to correspond with other users using a message transfer program to address and send letters to other users.
GO EASYPLEX

National Bulletin Board
this program is for posting public notices and personal classified advertisements. The user can search through the bulletins by category.
GO BULLETIN

User Directory
a list of subscribers who have chosen to leave their name and user number as well as other personal information such as terminal type, city of residence and personal interests.
GO USERS

News/Weather/Sports *GO NEWS*

Associated Press Viewdata Wire
a continuously updated news wire service reporting on world, national and regional events in all sectors of activity.
GO APV

Online Today Electronic Edition
an electronic extension of *Online Today* magazine. Contains daily-updated computer and videotex industry news; reviews of hardware, software and books; new product announcements; and a direct link to *Online Today* advertisers.
GO ONLINE

The Washington Post Electronic Newsletter
is a daily newsletter keying in on the political and governmental scene on Capitol Hill. Regular features include The Federal Report, Mike Causey's Federal Diary and the listings of committee hearings on the Hill. The Electronic Post also includes a regular national political report.
GO TWP

NOAA Weather Wire
a continuously updated weather reporting wire service providing aviation, marine and public weather conditions in each state of the country.
GO WEATHER

Skiers Information Service Directory and Discussion Forum
an international guide to ski resorts with listings of special benefits available to members.
GO SKI

Official PGA Tour Media Guide
a compilation of biographical and performance statistics of all the PGA tournament golf players.
GO PGA

Hollywood Hotline
a news and information service of noteworthy events in motion pictures, television programs and music recordings. Also included are ratings of movies, TV shows, LPs and videocassettes. Short news items highlight television shows, describe legal battles and profile personalities.
GO HOLLYWOOD

Reference Databases *GO REFERENCE*

Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia
the electronic edition of the printed encyclopedia. Grolier's provides a searchable 21-volume, nine-million word database of over 28,000 subject entries. Written and formatted for videoscreens, Grolier's also provides a customer Feedback and product ordering section. The encyclopedia is now available as a subscription service.
GO ENCYCLOPEDIA

Human Sexuality and Support Group Forum
is a database provided by Howard and Martha Lewis, acknowledged experts in their field. Joining them is a staff of contributing editors in the fields of psychiatry, nursing, medicine and others. The services include topic feature articles, news capsules, answers to commonly asked questions, plus transcripts of discussions among experts.
GO HUMAN

The New Tech Times
is an interactive supplement to the national public television series "The New Tech Times." Hosted by Nicholas Johnson, a renowned syndicated columnist for the Gannett News Service, users can see descriptions of current and previous shows, send a message to the producers and purchase discount books.
GO NTT

Information on Demand
a professional research organization offering database-searching services. Using such major online information services as Dialog, Dow Jones and Infoline, IOD can research information on any subject including technical and scientific subjects.
GO IOD

The National Satirist
a look at the lighter side of the news. Topics vary from month to month but the emphasis is always on bringing a new perspective on serious and not-so-serious events.
GO KCS

HIGHLIGHTS

The College Board
provides information on all aspects of the college selection process, plus information on college planning, adult education and financial aid. A bibliography of College Board publications on these and other college-related topics is also included. A financial aid program can help you determine your eligibility for college aid.
GO TCB

Edutech Project PILOT
offers a range of computer-assisted instruction tutorials written in the PILOT language. Current offerings include **Turtle PILOT Tutorials**, a series of lessons to teach you how to write lessons in PILOT; **Scientific Methods Tutorial**; and a series of **Effective Writing Tutorials**.
GO CAI

The Handicapped Users' Database
provides detailed information about software and hardware for handicapped users. HUD also defines various handicapping conditions and gives tips for dealing with them effectively by using computers and other devices.
GO HANDICAPPED

College Press Service
an online news service for and about higher education including legislative news, classroom trends, funding patterns and general administrative affairs. The service is updated every Monday.
GO CPS

The Multiple Choice
a collection of tests designed to be educational and fun. Current offerings include the **TMC Analogies section** which simulates the Miller Analogies Test; **Trivia Unlimited**, a potpourri of trivia questions on history, movies, television, literature and other topics; **Personality Profile**, 40 questions on a variety of life situations to help analyze behavioral patterns; **TMC for Kids**, a special selection of tests for kids designed to be both fun and educational; **Categorically Trivial**, like Trivia Unlimited but with the questions categorized under such topics as the Bible, sports and American history; **So You Think You Know Me!!**, a fun but informative test of how well two people really know one another; and **Touch-Type Tutor** which provides 20 lessons for learning touch-typing on your computer at your own pace.
GO MULTIPLE CHOICE

Educational Research Forum
a discussion forum designed to promote communication among educational researchers, educators, and anyone else interested in the field. Sponsored by the Midwestern Educational Research Association.
GO EDRESEARCH

Educators Forum
a forum dedicated to discussion of the role of microcomputers in education from both the educator's and learner's perspectives. Includes dialog about the use of computer-assisted instruction programs (CAI) such as PILOT and PLATO.
GO EDUCATORS

EPIE Forum
a special interest group for educators, with news and events of interest to computer-oriented educators, students and parents.
GO EPIEFORUM

EPIE Database
focuses primarily on educational software and hardware. Features searchable version of TESS, The Educational Software Selector.
GO EPIE

Science Education Forum
designed for students, teachers and other CompuServe users interested in science and the future of science education. Databases include public domain programs for downloading.
GO SCIENCE

Home Management *GO HOME*

The Electronic Gourmet
is a sophisticated cooking/entertainment guide offered by Home Management Systems. It contains a searchable database of over 1,000 recipes which include detailed shopping and cooking instructions. Wine suggestions are also included. This product now contains a forum which replaces the old BH&G Cook's Underground.
GO GOURMET

HealthNet
is a comprehensive, online home medical reference source for the personal computer user. It has been prepared and is updated continuously by a team of licensed, board-certified physicians. Sections include reference library, newsletters and sports, each written in laymans language.
GO HNT

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Investments & Quotations *GO MMM*

Agri-Commodities
is a weekly commodity newsletter featuring trading recommendations from its Futures Focus TSF Indicator. The Indicator combines important technical, seasonal and fundamental factors to identify potentially profitable long - and short-term positions. Also provides a market overview section and tips on improving your trading performance.
GO ACI

Commodity Market Analysis and Quotes
available from News-A-Tron, includes selected grains, precious metals, petroleum products, and foreign exchange rates. News-A-Tron also offers oscillator information on selected market indices.
GO NAT

Shareholder Freebies
directs your attention to companies who offer free product samples, product discounts, and dividend reinvestment plans to their shareholders. Includes anecdotes and background on the freebies concept.
GO FRE

MicroQuote
provides historical market information for more than 50,000 stocks, bonds, market indices, mutual funds, government issues and options traded on U.S. and Canadian exchanges. Historical prices and volumes are available for most stocks back to 1/1/1974, and historical dividends are available back to 1/1/1968. MicroQuote and its features listed below can be found by typing
GO MMM-5

Market Reports (MKTHIGH)
provides up to 19 daily market reports, such as stocks up three, four or five days in a row, volume leaders, 20 most active stocks, 20 largest gains/losses, etc.

Examine an Issue in Detail (EXAMINE)
displays descriptive information for a specified issue (i.e., Standard & Poor's rating, shares outstanding, beta factor, latest bid, pricing and dividend history, Moody's rating, bond coupon rate, yield, maturity date or open interest).

Data Retrieval (DATA)
writes information in a format compatible with your microcomputer, enabling you to download prices for analysis on your microcomputer. Price and dividend information such as volume, high/ask, low/bid, close, dividend amount, type, ex-date, record date and payment date can be retrieved.

Annual/Quarterly Report *GO MMM*

Standard & Poor's (S&P)
provides up-to-date descriptive and financial information on more than 3,000 companies. Information is presented in categories such as Business Summary, New Product Developments, Net Income, Product/Service Line Breakdown, Net Sales Figures, Three-year EPS Data and Five-year EPS Growth Rate.
GO MMM-11

Value Line Data Base II
provides current and historical fundamental financial data that allows you to analyze the performance of more than 1,700 companies which collectively represent 95 percent of the dollar value of stocks traded on major U.S.

exchanges. This information is available back to 1969 and can be retrieved via VLANN, VLFORE, and VLDATA.
•VLANN provides annual financial statements: Balance Sheets, Income Statements, Sources and Uses of Funds and Key Ratios.
•VLFORE provides 3- to 5-year earnings forecasts.
•VLDATA allows access to all 416 accounts including Earnings Estimates, Target Price Forecasts, Beta, Pre-computed, commonly used ratios and Per share figures in a format ideal for downloading to your microcomputer for analysis with your own programs.
Note: prior authorization is required to access VLDATA.
GO MMM-10

Banking and Brokerage Services

Home Banking
allows you to pay your bills, transfer funds and check your account balances from the comfort of your home. Convenient and innovative banking services are available to customers of First Tennessee Bank, Central Trade Bank of Memphis, Shawmut Bank of Boston and Huntington National Bank of Columbus.
GO BANK

Unified Management Corporation's Liquid Green Trust
includes access to a money market fund offering high yields, free checking and safety of principal. Authorized Liquid Green Trust customers can check their account balances and initiate ACH cash transfers to and from their local banks.
GO FIN-40

News Reports *GO MMM*

The Business Information Wire
provides stories gathered by reporters across Canada and from correspondents abroad. This wire service is updated continuously throughout the day and edited by the Canadian Press with the particular information requirements of the business subscriber in mind.
GO BIW

The Business Wire
provides press releases and news articles from the world of business. Updated continuously throughout the day, The Business Wire offers timely information on hundreds of different companies.
GO TBW

Color Plots (VIDPLT or TELPLT)
provide an excellent means of reviewing trends and performance of your favorite securities. Through MicroQuote, plots for up to 17 periods of data (either daily, weekly or monthly) can be received on selected microcomputers (using the VIDTEX Executive) such as the TRS-80 Color Computer, TRS-80 Models I and III, Atari 400, Commodore PET, TRS-80 Videotex Terminal, IBM PC with color monitor, Osborne, and Atari 800. Telidon graphics for 60 periods of data (daily, weekly or monthly) can be received on compatible equipment.

Prices (PRICE)
provides price quotations for any specified time period for a specified security. Price information includes the date, volume (in 100s), high/ask, low/bid and close.

Dividends, Bond Interest Payments, and Splits (DIVI)
offers dividend or distribution information and includes the ex-date, record date, payment date, distribution type and rate.

Multiple Price Quotes (QUOTES)
provides a price quote for a specified day for one or more securities (maximum of 500 securities). A quote would include ticker symbol, volume, high/ask, low/bid, close/avg and CUSIP number.

Portfolio Summary (PORT)
produces a valuation report on a portfolio, displaying current values and gains or losses.

Summary Statistics (STATS)
provides descriptive statistics for an issue over a specified time period. The high, low, close, high close, low close, volume, mean and standard deviation are reported.

Search for CUSIPs and Ticker Symbols (CUSIP)
searches and lists specified security issues by company name. Also lists all the issues for a given issuer.

Quick Quote
provides current-day quotes for 9,000 stocks. Quotes include the high, low, closing, volume and net change figures for the NYSE, AMEX and many OTC securities. Advanced features include a search by company name if the ticker symbol is not known, and the capability of reading in a file to check multiple securities.
GO MMM-5

Stevens Business Reports
gives you weekly information helping you run your small business more effectively. It includes tips on saving money, managing employees, handling taxes, etc.
GO SBR

Business & Law Review
keeps you abreast of the legal and economic environment affecting small businesses and investors.
GO BLR

Reference Library *GO MMM*

Rapaport Diamond Service
from the Diamond District on New York's 47th Street includes information on how diamond values are determined, current diamond wholesale price information, buy and sell listings, and diamond market news and reports.
GO RDC

Incorporating Guide
Now you can learn about different business enterprises and actually incorporate your business in any state quickly and economically. Provided by Corporate Agents Inc., a full-service incorporating company, the Incorporating Guide answers the many questions about making this important business move.
GO INC

Personal Finance *GO MMM*

Internal Revenue Service
offers the full text of 66 Taxpayer Information Publications online. Also includes Tax Tips: answers to commonly-asked questions about income taxes, a list of all IRS taxpayer publications, a list of all tax forms, and online order entry for publications and forms.
GO IRS

Social Security Administration
supplies information on Social Security, including how to build up coverage, eligibility for benefits, etc.
GO SSA

PERSONAL COMPUTING

Forums *GO COMPUTERS*

MAUG
the Apple Users' Group, comprised of people who use Apple computers. Any Apple owner or user may become a member of this group.
GO MAUG

PDP-11(H11)
a group of owners of the H11 and PDP11 family of microcomputers. The members of this group largely discuss programming and applications for these computers.
GO PCS-53

Online Today Electronic Edition
an electronic extension of *Online Today* magazine. Contains frequently-updated computer and videotex industry news; reviews of hardware, software and books; new product announcements; and a direct link to *Online Today* advertisers.
GO ONLINE

SERVICES FOR PROFESSIONALS

Aviation Services *GO AVIATION*

Aviation Safety Institute
provides information on a variety of safety-related topics. Topics include Service Difficulty Reports and Hazard Reports, along with articles on flight operations, human factors and safety tips. The information in this electronic newsletter is updated twice a month.
GO ASI

Aviation Forum (AVSIG)
a discussion forum where members representing all segments of the aviation community can exchange ideas and information. The group currently has more than 3,000 members. These members can leave and retrieve messages under 10 different topics including general information, airframe, air traffic control, avionics, home/experimental aircraft, noise and powerplants. Members can also participate in "online conferences" to communicate with other individuals in real time. Members can also access "databases" such as a report on the effects of air turbulence and a list of National Weather Service word contractions.
GO AVSIG

Aviation Weather
includes hourly reports, terminal forecasts, previous hourly reports, winds aloft forecasts, NOTAMS, PIREPS, SIGMETS, AIRMETS, area forecasts, radar summaries and radar weather maps. Reports are updated throughout the day as information is received from the National Weather Service. **Note:** A "Flight Planning and Aviation Weather Users' Guide" that provides further explanation of these services can be ordered from CompuServe.
GO AWX

Flight Planning
three programs are available which prompt the user for all necessary input to calculate a complete flight log between any two points in the continental U.S. One program produces a Great Circle RNAV flight route. A second creates an incremental approximation to a Great Circle course via VOR/DME stations. The third program accepts user entered NAVAIDS and creates an incremental approximation to a Great Circle course. The database includes the coordinates of nearly 6,000 U.S. airports and will accept the latitude and longitude of airports not included in this database.
GO EMI

Aircraft Insurance Buyer's Guide
contains helpful information to guide aviation professionals in purchasing the proper aircraft insurance coverage. Also included are digests of recent actual court cases following accidents in which insurance companies refused to pay. Written by FAA licensed Airline Transport Pilot Jay C. White, the Buyer's Guide provides nontechnical information for the professional with limited time to devote to insurance needs.
GO AVL

EMI Radar Map
program assembling a radar precipitation map of the U.S. with numerical indicators of precipitation density. Weather data digitized by the National Weather Service.
GO EMI-8

FAA Rule Changes/NTSB Cases
a report of the Rule and Regulation actions of the Federal Aviation Administration published in the Federal Register. Updated twice monthly, this feature provides notice of any proposed rule that would have substantial public impact. Also included are actions such as issuance of advisory circulars and airworthiness directives, and the granting of individual exemptions from certain FAA Regulations.
GO AVR

VIDTEX Weather Maps
display U.S. weather data using terminal graphics modes. A terminal with high or medium resolution graphics and a CompuServe VIDTEX Executive program are required.
GO SFP-20

Medical Services *GO MEDICAL*

AAMSI Communications Network
information provided by the same organization that sponsors the Medical Forum. The data in this electronic newsletter is updated monthly and includes medical journal abstracts and book reviews, vendor information and an index of current journals. This service also features a description of medical programs that compute clinical values for a variety of tests, procedures and diagnostic situations.
GO AAMSI

AAMSI Medical Forum
a "discussion forum" sponsored by the American Association for Medical Systems and Informatics. Members represent all segments of the professional medical community and use this forum to exchange ideas and information on medically-related topics. Members can access an extensive "help" file on how to use this forum and receive a listing of computer-based bulletin boards and databases that contain medical information. Other items of interest in the forum include general information on the U.S. National Library of Medicine's Medline service and a description of the microcomputer version of the MUMPS language. Another forum feature that members can take advantage of is "online conferences" where the members discuss a topic via their computer keyboard. This forum currently has over 3,000 members throughout North America.
GO AAMSI

FOI: Newsline
provides topical FDA information for medical and regulatory affairs professionals. The information includes FDA press releases and Federal Register Notices, drug approvals, device approvals, FDA regulatory letters and new FDA documents. FOI also offers an online FDA document ordering service.
GO FOI

Healthcom Medical Information Service and Health Forum
database supplying medical information for medical professionals and consumers. Features the searchable Rare Disease Database. Forum allows professionals and other users to participate in health-related discussions.
GO HCM

OBGYN Forum
features an expert-of-the-week who discusses medical topics for professionals. A section on women's health questions and answers lists inquiries and responses by topic.
GO OBGYN

Environmental Services *GO SFP-1*

Information Retrieval Services (Infotext)
an information retrieval service designed to gather data, research current events and perform literature searches for the busy professional. Infotext is a fee-based organization providing compiled, up-to-date information in all fields of science and engineering. With access to hundreds of databases, Infotext can compile and deliver the information to help you maintain a competitive edge.
GO IFT

Communications Industry Forum
a forum dealing with the technical and aesthetic sides of electronic communications including broadcast radio and television, cable and pay television, data and telephone communications, two-way radio communications and common carrier networks. There is a bulletin board area to post messages related to fields such as engineering and technical, research and development, legal and regulatory, journalism, advertising, marketing and promotion.
GO SFP-30

Legal Forum
a discussion forum where members representing all segments of the legal community can exchange ideas and information. These members can leave and retrieve messages under the categories of General Information, Computer Law, Lawyer Referral Network, Pro Bono, Issue Forum, Software, Lawyer to Lawyer and Law Enforcement. Other features available in this forum include information on accessing and using the Westlaw and Lexis legal databases, a bibliography of selected articles on computer law and weekly "online conferences." This forum has over 1,200 members.
GO LAWSIG

Sixty stores under one Mall roof!

Need software, hardware or a trip to anywhere? Call on the Mall. Need camera stuff, scuba stuff or stuff for your Buick? Call on the Mall. It's electronic shopping at its most extensive (thousands and thousands of items are on-line), most elegant and most exciting! Our stores read like a who's who of big companies. And small ones. Starting from the top there's Air France. Alamo Rent-A-Car. American Airlines. American Express. American Outdoorsman. Athlete's Outfitter. Bank of America. Bantam Books. Berry Scuba. Bloomingdale's by Mail. The list goes on and grows every day. So to find out more about the stores in our Mall, call on the Mall!

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A service of CompuServe and L.M. Berry & Co.

To open a Mall store call 212/223-2424

Quadboard

Multifunction Expansion Card for IBM PC and PC-XT

Quadram Corp.
4357 Park Dr.
Norcross, GA 30093
404/923-6666

Computers: IBM PC and PC-XT.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS.
Media: One disk drive required for bundled software.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: System motherboard must be fully populated with RAM.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 484K IBM PC, two double-sided, double-density disk drives, Okidata Microline 84 printer, running PC-DOS 2.1.
List Price: $325 with no RAM, $795 with 384K RAM.

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

Quadram Corp. is a true pioneer in the personal computer industry. When it introduced the original version of Quadboard, dismantling an IBM PC to install a "foreign" enhancement was hardly a popular idea. But Quadboard's excellent quality and dependable performance quickly established its reputation.

By now, just about everyone recognizes that the five expansion slots in the IBM PC are quickly gobbled up by even modest enhancement efforts. This is especially true if you stick with IBM's notion that each circuit board add-on contain only one or two functions. The IBM board I purchased for my first expansion contained 64K of memory, nothing else. Today, it would be almost unthinkable to take up an entire expansion slot with such a card.

Modern multifunction cards such as Quadboard contain a smorgasbord of powerful features that greatly multiply the effectiveness of the PC's expansion slots. Quadboard provides a serial communications port, parallel printer port, battery-operated real-time clock, game port, and holds from 64K to 384K RAM. Also included is software for a print spooler and RAM disk. All these goodies require only one PC expansion slot.

The high quality of Quadboard construction is evident from a visual inspection. Soldering of hundreds of tiny pins is neat and precise, and the board has the look and heft of solid construction. Documentation consists of two softcover booklets. The first is the installation and operation manual, the other contains instruction for the accompanying software.

I completed installation of Quadboard in less than thirty minutes, and everything worked precisely as it's supposed to. However, previous experience with installing and reviewing these devices helped me over some potential rough spots.

Although Quadboard's installation instructions are clear and easy to follow, there's a surprising omission sure to cause confusion for some users: Switches on the PC system board must be set to tell your PC how much memory is installed. This is easy if you know the correct switch settings. Quadboard's instruction book passes off this responsibility by referring you to your PC operations manual. No problem in this, unless you have an early PC as I do. Documentation for the early PCs contain instructions for setting the switches only up to 256K. Since I've been through this before, I was able to come up with the right settings.

Installation is easy. The board just slips into any of the PC's five slots. The serial connector is built into the card, while the sockets for parallel and game ports are mounted on a metal chassis that hangs neatly on the back panel of the PC.

The built-in clock is a nifty feature that eliminates the need to enter the date and time every time you boot up your computer. It's powered by a rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery that eliminates the drudgery of yearly battery replacement required for most similar boards.

Quadboard's software is called QuadMaster II (QM2) and contains some pleasant surprises. It can be either menu or command-driven; thus, you can use easy menu choices or speedier commands that must be memorized. QM2's RAM disk is a pleasure to use. When you set it up, you can designate RAM size from 36K to 360K. I had no trouble setting up and using a RAM disk of 360K, which greatly speeded operation of my database management program. The great advantage of a RAM disk, of course, is its faster access speed as compared to a floppy disk drive. Printing out a set of selected records that required about 6 minutes with a floppy drive took only 3 minutes 40 seconds with the RAM disk.

QM2's print spooler also is nicely designed. Print spoolers let you use your computer for other applications while printing a long report or document. The QM2 spooler has several advanced features. One that I especially like is the ability to halt printing to reload paper or clear a paper jam without interfering with any application program running at the time.

Quadboard's high quality construction and well designed software make it one of the best buys available today in a multifunction card. If you want to make maximum use of your PC expansion slots, Quadboard is an excellent way to go about it.

Circle 8 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia, Pa. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet Printer

High Speed, Professional Quality with Multiple Type Styles

Hewlett-Packard Co.
1820 Embarcadero Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
800/367-5772

Computers: Any computer capable of 9600 b/s operation over RS-232C serial port. Specific instructions given for HP 150 and IBM PC.
Operating Systems: Not applicable.
Media: Not applicable.
Required Peripherals: Not applicable.
Other Requirements: RS-232C port on computer and cables.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 320K IBM PC, PC-DOS 2.0, one 360K drive, one 10 MB fixed disk, IBM monochrome monitor.
List Price: $3,495

Reviewed by Harry Green

Does it make sense to spend more for a printer than you spent for your computer? For some people the answer is definitely yes. If high speed, professional quality and the ability to mix type styles is important, the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printer is well worth its price. I bought the printer a few days before a 740-page book draft was due at a publisher. The printer performed flawlessly. Moreover, instead of running the manuscript through the copy machine, I set the word processor for two copies. Since LaserJet is built on a Cannon copier

mechanism, it does the same job as a copier without hand feeding the originals.

Most copiers use a drum that deteriorates with age and must be replaced at high cost. This print mechanism uses a drum and toner built into a sealed cartridge good for 2,500 to 4,000 copies, depending on the print density. When the cartridge runs out, it's replaced for about $80, which makes the price for supplies about two to three cents per copy. A window on the side of the cartridge indicates remaining capacity. I've printed about 2,500 pages, and the window shows a bit of red, indicating about 1,000 pages remaining.

The LaserJet bears a close resemblance to a copier, especially with the cover open. Characters from the computer stream at 9600 bits per second into the printer where a laser scanner paints the print image on a drum. The drum is charged with toner that is transferred to a blank sheet of paper, baked on with a heat process and ejected at a rate that H-P claims is eight 60-line pages per minute. I have not been able to reach the advertised speed with an IBM PC and Microsoft Word. With this combination, double-spaced pages print at six pages per minute, and single spaced pages at four pages per minute. This translates to a top speed of about 150 characters per second (cps), still a respectable rate for a letter-quality printer. With a BASIC program written to loop through a 60 character line, LaserJet prints at 230 cps.

Two plug-in font cartridges are available, providing proportional spacing, bold, italic and upright print styles. The default style that comes with the machine is 10 pitch Courier. Type styles are changed by sending an escape-code sequence to the printer. Escape codes not only control type style and pitch, they also control printing in the "portrait" and "landscape" modes. Portrait mode is the familiar upright mode used for document printing. In the landscape mode, printing is turned sideways for documents wider than 80 columns.

If your word processor or spreadsheet does not support all of LaserJet's escape attributes, it's necessary to drive the printer to another mode with a short BASIC program. For example, before loading a spreadsheet, it's necessary to enter BASIC and execute a short one-line program to turn the printer into the landscape mode. Some programs support many of LaserJet's escape sequences. For example, Microsoft Word contains print drivers to support margins, underlining, boldface, italics, proportional spacing and other such functions. For programs that lack appropriate drivers, LaserJet works in a TTY mode at a slightly reduced speed.

The LaserJet obviously is not for everyone. It's expensive, but not prohibitively so for a company that can profit from high printer throughput. A disadvantage is that its print tray capacity is only about 30 sheets, which means you have to watch it on a long print job. Like all copiers, the pages come out in reverse order. We can hope that eventually some word processing programs will print from the back of the document. Another drawback is the inconvenience of sending escape codes to change the print mode. It's particularly unfortunate that the program can't be changed from portrait to landscape mode with a push button because it's inconvenient to leave the program you are on to change the mode. This is especially troublesome for addressing envelopes.

These problems are minor compared to LaserJet's advantages of speed, versatility and print quality. It's also the quietest printer I've heard. The noise level is about the same as the fan and disk in an IBM PC-XT. For those who can justify the cost, LaserJet is highly recommended.

Circle 9 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Harry Green is a free-lance writer from Portland, Ore. He writes about telecommunications, office automation and personal computer-related topics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

Amdek Color 700 Monitor

Gives Excellent 16-Color Display

Amdek Corp.
2201 Lively Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
312/364-1180

Computers: Any computer capable of supporting RGB (Red-Green-Blue) monitors; compatible with the IBM PC and clones.
Operating System: Not applicable.
Features: High-resolution 16-color display; 13-inch diagonal screen; 0.31-mm dot pitch; 720 by 240 maximum resolution; 2,000 characters (80 characters by 25 lines); "Text" switch for monochrome (green) text display; A/B computer select switch; interface cable included; three year warranty on tube and two year warranty on other components.
Options: None.
System used for test: Compaq Deskpro (Model 2) using standard RGB output available as an alternative to the Compaq dual-mode monitor from the built-in graphics card and monitor connector.
List Price: $699

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau

Amdek's Color 700 is a moderately priced RGB TTL-level monitor sufficient for all but critical graphic design applications. Its 720 by 240 resolution actually exceeds the output of many PC-style monitor adapters; although my Deskpro needs only 640 by 200, the Color 700 adds flexibility if I purchase another computer.

Amdek's ads claim color so good that brown looks like brown. A DOS-diskette colorbar program proved that point. All 16 colors, including brown and dark grey, look extraordinarily good, with no "bleeding" into the background. There's no bleeding or color overlapping in other application programs either. Tests with screen grids show no "pincushion," "barrel" or other distortion, and image alignment is excellent. With a white background, a slight pink discoloration is evident near one corner, but it's not severe enough to interfere with or be seen in day-to-day operations.

The "Text" pushbutton changes the entire screen display to light green, doing nothing for resolution. The display is crisp and sharp enough for lengthy sessions of text editing without eye fatigue.

An A/B computer select switch on the back is set at "B" for my system. None of my computers support the "A" setting, and the instructions do not define what determines the setting. It's a matter of trying them both and using the one that works.

I feel the range of contrast and brightness control is too limited, barely covering levels I consider most comfortable. Back-panel controls for vertical size, vertical hold and horizontal phase have required no adjustment.

After four months, the Color 700 has proven itself a good choice. I like it so well that I've put my Compaq dual-mode amber monitor into semi-retirement.

Circle 10 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 200 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

Compare II

Fills a Specialized Documentation Need

Solution Technology Inc.
1499 Palmetto Park Rd., #218
Boca Raton, FL 33432
305/368-6228

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT and compatibles; various CP/M computers.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 1.1 or higher; CP/M-80, CP/M-86 and MP/M versions available.
Media: Requires one diskette drive.
Copy Protection: None; may be copied to and run from backup diskettes or hard disk.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: PC-DOS, MS-DOS and CP/M-86 versions require 31K of usable RAM after loading operating system; CP/M 2.2, CP/M 3.0 and MP/M versions require 28K of RAM after loading operating system.
Optional Items: Additional diskette drives, hard disk or electronic disk; additional memory; 132-column printer; word processor or text editor capable of producing ASCII text files (WordStar document files will work).
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro (Model 2) with two 360K diskette drives, 20MB IOMEGA Alpha-10 Cartridge Drive Subsystem (Bernoulli Box), Amdek Color 700 monitor, Juki 6300 printer; running IBM PC-DOS 2.10 and Compaq MS-DOS 2.02.
List Price: $145

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau

Do you ever need to precisely identify differences between revisions of a document or between text files stored on disks? If so, you run headlong into a nemesis of the professional word-processing user.

Pity the technical writer who revises a 600-page manual and has to mark all differences between the new and old versions with "change bars" in the margin. That's a requirement in many large companies and a tremendous burden on people who prepare the affected documents. A similar burden is placed on writers drafting manuscripts, engineers developing reports and specifications, attorneys preparing and revising legal documents, publishers dealing with recompiled reference materials, students preparing theses or research papers and many others needing to know differences in versions of text.

Examining and comparing text to locate, analyze and mark changes is a tedious, non-productive task subject to errors, oversights and omissions.

As strictly routine chores, such comparisons are excellent candidates for computerization. Solution Technology's Compare II program does just that. Under user control, it compares two text files, isolating and identifying every difference between them on either a line-by-line or word-by-word basis.

Using the program is simple. Just copy it to a working diskette or hard-disk subdirectory, and run it from a command line that specifies the files to be compared and any options desired. Usually, only one filename is needed because the program can make reasonable guesses about the name of the second file. For example, given files SCRAP.TXT and SCRAP.BAK on a disk, asking for a comparison on SCRAP.TXT causes the program to assume that the other file is SCRAP.BAK.

About three dozen options and negative options add or remove functions that control the Compare II performance and outputs. These can be entered on the command line when calling the program, or they can be built into "super options" when the same basic options are being used again and again.

Outputs can range from lists of changes detected, including the affected text of both documents and the location within the newest document, to complete documents that have change bars positioned in the left margin. Those outputs can be routed to the screen for inspection, a printer for analysis or a new disk file for subsequent editing or printing.

The options control functions like side-by-side horizontal displays or over-and-under vertical displays of changes, output routing, console echoing, word or line comparisons, conversion of non-printable control characters to printable strings, ignoring or reporting case changes, handling of comment lines, treatment of numeric labels and tags (for programs written in assembly and other languages) and others.

To show the speed of Compare II, I used it on two files I already had compared manually, taking two hours to isolate and mark the changes. The files were WordStar documents, and the final version contained 34,432 bytes, 659 lines and 4,577 words. All files were stored on a Bernoulli Box drive equivalent to a hard disk, with a Deskpro running in its 7.14 MHz high-speed mode. Compare II took 82 seconds to write a new document with change bars to disk. It output a difference report as a disk file in 46.3 seconds when in line mode and in 73.7 seconds when in word mode. What a time saver!

I have few complaints about Compare II. The manual could be easier to read, and it needs a pocket "jogger" card to expedite selecting options. The program could be improved by allowing right-margin change bars as well as the left-margin bars now provided. And, menu-driven operation might be more convenient than the sometimes complex command lines that must be entered.

Nevertheless, Compare II is a handy tool for anyone dealing with large amounts of changing text or program code. It works beautifully and catches even the smallest differences. The $149 cost, which might seem high, can be recovered quickly through time savings in any operation demanding extensive file comparisons.

Circle 11 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Owl A-B-C Integrated Software

Easy and Convenient with Limited Applications

Owl Software Corp.
6927 Atoll Ave.
North Hollywood, CA 91605
818/982-6243

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT and compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS and MS-DOS 2.0 or higher.
Media: Two double-sided disk drives or hard disk.
Copy Protection: None; may be run from backup copies or hard disk with no restrictions.
Required Peripherals: 80-column display.
Other Requirements: Minimum 192K RAM.
Optional Items: Printer; Hayes-compatible modem.
System used for test: 484K IBM PC, two double-sided, double-density disk drives, Okidata Microline 84 printer, running PC-DOS 2.1.
List Price: $240

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

The idea of integrated software makes a lot of sense. Combining two or more

computer applications into a single program can greatly improve efficiency. One obviously desirable result is the ability to interchange data easily between, say, a database file and a word processor. Data interchange can be done with many non-integrated programs, of course, but the procedure normally requires several clumsy steps. First, you have to convert files to straight ASCII format or to the popular DIF format. Then, you must shut down the first application program and boot the other, and so on.

With a well integrated program, you can move from one application to another and swap data between them with just a few keystrokes and a common menu. The problem is that true integration is a difficult and expensive programming task. To get by this, some integrated packages compromise the capabilities of the individual applications. The result often is a package that's easy and convenient to use but with individual applications that do not stack up well when compared to dedicated programs. I believe that Owl A-B-C fits into that category.

Owl A-B-C is quite successful in its integration. It's menu-driven, and all functions operate from essentially one menu and one set of file commands. Learning to use it is hardly more difficult than learning a single-purpose program. I haven't seen an integrated package that's easier to learn. Error protection is fair, and you can call up help screens at any point. Excellent use of special function keys is made throughout the program. Owl A-B-C is written in compiled BASIC and assembler language, a combination that has resulted in surprising speed in all modes.

The publisher offers free technical support by telephone (not toll-free). Unfortunately, the loose-leaf user's manual is not organized into separate sections for each application. This isn't a serious problem because all modes use basically the same set of menus and commands. However, the documentation would be a much better reference if a separate section for each function were provided. The manual could also be improved by better editing and printing.

An interactive demonstration disk is included. It takes less than 30 minutes to run and does a good job of introducing new users to the program's features.

Owl A-B-C consists of five integrated functions: word processing, mail merge, database manager, time scheduler and telephone dialer with terminal emulation for telecommunication. All work reasonably well, but none, in my view, perform as well as most individually dedicated programs.

On booting up Owl A-B-C, you're greeted by the master menu, which allows you to enter any of the program's applications. Choosing "create a file," for example, calls up a submenu with such choices as a general text file (word processing), a data file (database management), time scheduling or telecommunications.

The word processor probably is the best application. It's extremely fast and offers most features you would expect in a word processor. Included are automatic word wrap, variable margins and tabs, headers, footers and global replaces.

However, I found the basic screen display to be too busy in the word-processing mode. There are several lines of information on the top and bottom of the screen, and an "end of file" statement that moves down as you insert text. This is compounded by a line in the midst of all this that announces, "This is the first line of the text." This line is typed over as you insert your own first line, but the entire effect is one of clutter that is distracting to me.

Defining fields for a database in Owl A-B-C is simplicity itself. Just follow prompts that ask for a name and maximum length for each field; but be careful to follow directions when setting the maximum field size. If you forget to separate the name of the field from the size with a comma, you could have problems. The program will record the length, but if you exceed it when you enter data, there is no warning, no refusal to accept the extra characters. This can go unnoticed until you ask for a printout. Then, you'll wind up with a hodge-podge that is hard to decipher.

The database manager, more correctly called a file manager, has other limitations. Since Owl A-B-C retains files entirely in memory during editing, size limitations will be too restrictive for some purposes. With 192K RAM, maximum field size is 72 bytes, the maximum number of fields per record is 21 and the maximum number of records in a file is limited to 1,000. Even these are theoretical maximums. A file that has records with the maximum number of fields and maximum field size will not hold the maximum of 1,000 records.

The Owl A-B-C time manager integrates smoothly with the rest of the program. Using a submenu, you can enter appointments on your schedule without affecting the file currently in memory. When the scheduled time arrives, your computer will remind you with an audible tone.

The telephone option on the main menu provides an automatic telephone dialer that will both dial numbers that you have already entered in the directory and make a permanent log of those calls if you wish. You can call up any entry in the phone directory by entering all or part of the person's name or company.

The telephone option also is used for telecommunications with other computers or with public services such as CompuServe. Telecommunications requires the use of a Hayes modem.

Owl A-B-C is a well integrated package that is exceptionally easy to learn. However, the word processing and database management functions are "plain-vanilla" programs best suited to home or very small business use.

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Olé

An Online Encyclopedia For MS-DOS

HyperGraphics Corp.
P.O. Box 50779
Denton, TX 76206-0779
817/565-0004

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, AT&T 6300 and compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Requires one double-sided diskette drive; preferred configurations have either two double-sided diskette drives or one double-sided diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: Copyable for backup with diskette copies usable only to restore damaged originals; special installation program provided to allow running program from hard disk without having original diskette in a drive.
Required Peripherals: Color or monochrome monitor (color preferred) with graphics board; AT&T 6300 and Compaq monochrome systems work, but IBM monochrome systems do not.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM; memory-resident program consumes 110K RAM in addition to other application software being used.
Optional Items: Additional diskette drives or hard disks; additional memory.
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro (Model 2) with two 360K diskette drives, 20MB IOMEGA Alpha-10 Cartridge Drive Subsystem (Bernoulli Box), STB Systems' RIO Plus II multifunction card, Amdek Color 700 RGB monitor; running IBM PC-DOS 2.10 and Compaq MS-DOS 2.02.
List Price: $69.95

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau

HyperGraphics Corp. has applied techniques developed for their Presentation Graphics System and Authoring Graphics System in their tutorial packages for computer users. The first of these online encyclopedias in the Olé series is for MS-DOS users and is called the DOS Encyclopedia.

The intent is to provide instructional and reference materials on a given subject at the touch of a few keys. As the name implies, the DOS Encyclopedia covers commands and procedures for the variants of MS-DOS.

Once a "manager" program is loaded and resident in memory, touching Alt-O actuates the encyclopedia, even from within other applications like data managers or word processors. Menus quickly access detailed information on 65 specific keywords like individual DOS commands or nine general subjects like erasing files. The main menu also provides help for the encyclopedia itself, a "resume" function to return to the prior application while leaving the "manager" resident in memory, a "quit" function to return but clear the "manager" from memory and a method of linking into other encyclopedias yet to be developed.

The use of a resident program in the background of other applications, full color, graphic visual presentations, animation and interactive user participation through question-and-answer quizzes combine to make the DOS Encyclopedia appealing, especially for novices. However, long-term usefulness is limited by the elementary information it contains. The package is promoted as "the disk that makes the DOS manual a throwaway." Too bad that's not true, but the software covers only basic information about any subject. It doesn't expand subjects given inadequate treatment in the DOS manual and often falls short of the manual for anything but simple needs. Anyone having used their computer for a few weeks probably will have outgrown this package.

The memory-resident "manager" program is a hungry piece of software and devours 110K. With all the memory-resident programs around for desk organization, communications and other uses, some users may not want to devote memory to keeping this program resident.

I experienced some problems with an early program release. One was that the hard-disk installation would not work for my Compaq Deskpro and interchangeable-cartridge Bernoulli Box. For floppy-based systems, the encyclopedia can be run only from the original distribution diskettes, but a special installation process is supposed to install a fully operational version on a hard disk. Yet it refused to install on a Bernoulli drive, giving an error message saying that the drive was an "inappropriate destination."

Furthermore, the DOS Encyclopedia interacted adversely with some other applications. Accessing the encyclopedia and then returning to the application lost color capability in WordStar 3.3, StarPolish and Volkswriter Scientific. It was necessary to restart those programs from DOS to restore color.

It seriously interfered with Open Access, WordStar 2000 and Desk Organizer, each of which operated properly only if it was the first application booted after loading the encyclopedia manager. Each failed to start or display properly if some other application had been run after loading the manager. Of course, the problem could be unique to a Deskpro and RGB color monitor (other inconsistencies have been observed with that equipment). Even though most applications work without adverse interaction, prospective encyclopedia users should examine their applications and may have to limit the encyclopedia to situations where such problems do not occur.

When used as a stand-alone program and as an introduction to DOS, this encyclopedia provides an excellent overview of procedures and clear, step-by-step explanations of the DOS commands and utility programs. As such, it makes learning basic computer operations a snap for newcomers trying to wade through their first few weeks on a machine. Beyond that, however, it offers little for users already familiar with their machines and would probably have a short useful life, ending up stored on a shelf.

Circle 14 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 200 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

What's Going On???

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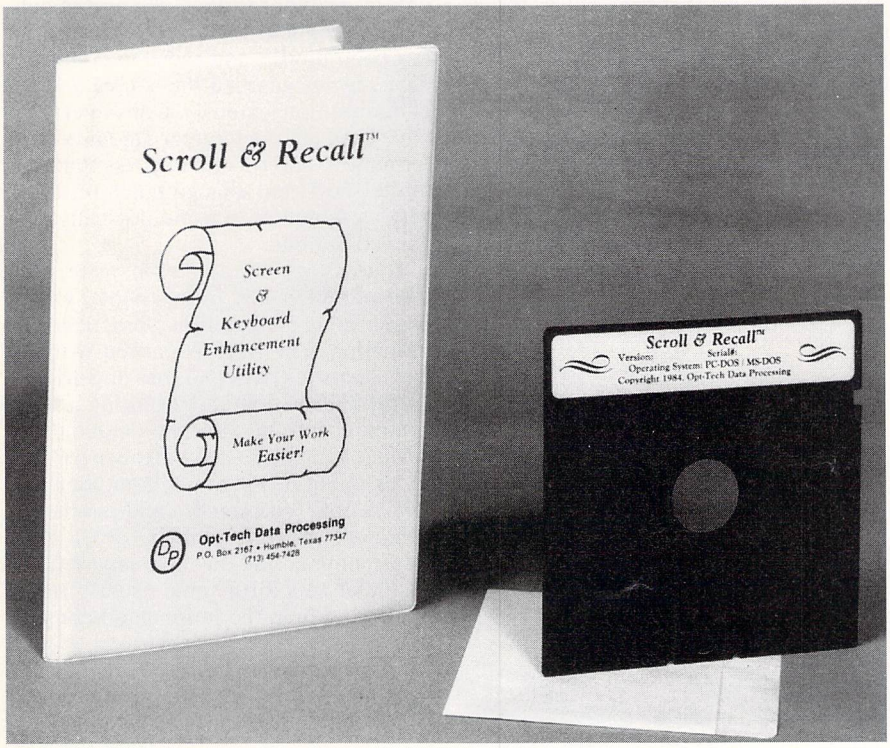

Scroll & Recall

Makes Computing Easier

Opt-Tech Data Processing
P.O. Box 2167
Humble, TX 77347
713/454-7428

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and true compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS.
Media: One disk drive required.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: At least 64K RAM; 80-column display.
System used for test: 320K Heathkit 150PC computer with a monochrome monitor and two double-sided, double-density drives running MS-DOS 2.13; Radio Shack DMP2100P printer; 128K Microfazer printer buffer.
List Price: $69

Reviewed by Hardin Brothers

Scroll & Recall is a combination of two programs that will make every session at your computer more pleasant. The Scroll utility allows you to review information that has scrolled off the screen. By pressing two keys, you can review up to 28 previous screen pages of information. You move through the pages with the cursor keys easily and quickly, and when you are done, a tap on the escape key brings you back to whatever program was running.

The Recall utility allows you to reuse commands that you previously issued to DOS or other programs. Whenever the computer is waiting for a line of input, the cursor keys will move you through a list of commands you have already entered. When you find the one you are seeking, a tap on the enter key will send it to the computer again. With Recall's advanced features, you can edit previous commands with functions that are almost identical to those available with BASIC's line editor.

A third utility will send all screens saved in memory to a disk file or printer. You might, for example, use Scroll to capture part of a CompuServe session, then later print everything for future reference.

The three parts of Scroll & Recall worked well, and each did its job with a minimum of fuss. Although the cost may be a little high, after you use Scroll & Recall for a few minutes, you'll probably never again start a session at your computer without it.

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Hardin Brothers is a writer, computer programmer and teacher who lives near Los Angeles. He is a frequent contributor to several computer magazines. His CompuServe User ID number is 72165,735.

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Dialing For Data:

A Consumer's How-To Handbook on Computer Communications

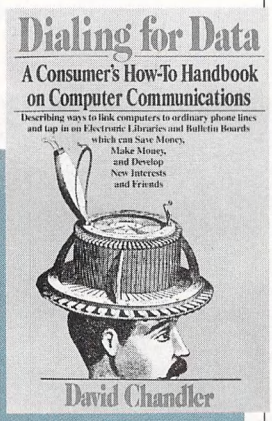
By David Chandler
Random House, 1985
167 pages; $9.95 (softcover)

Reviewed by James Moran

I usually begin a book from the front, but the back cover on *Dialing for Data* caught my eye. What I read there made me think that perhaps this book would be a bit more interesting than many others that had computer communications as the subject. First there was the subtitle: *A Consumer's How-To Handbook on Computer Communications*. There was something about that subtitle that just didn't seem to fit right.

There was more on that back cover than a subtitle however. There was a curious piece about the author's other credits. Curious in that David Chandler didn't come across as your usual well-informed technical specialist. For instance: "Currently a correspondent for *People* magazine, Mr. Chandler is a recipient of the Scripps-Howard Award, the Sigma Delta Chi Distinguished Service Award and the Pulitzer Prize . . ." A Pulitzer Prize for gosh sakes. What was going on here? Was this guy just slumming or was he a trendsetter? Had Norman Mailer started on a new book to be titled *Computer Evenings*?

Once I got past that back cover, things got a bit more familiar. The last sections of the book included a glossary and an appendix of public access systems with the usual list of board names and telephone numbers. At this point it seemed appropriate to start reading the book in the order in which it was probably written, so I flipped the book over and continued at the beginning. What I found was some fascinating insight into consumer communications.


Dialing for Data
A Consumer's How-To Handbook on Computer Communications
Describing ways to link computers to ordinary phone lines and tap in on Electronic Libraries and Bulletin Boards which can Save Money, Make Money, and Develop New Interests and Friends
David Chandler

David Chandler has produced an entertaining book that cuts through the jargon and tells the reader what services are out there.

David Chandler, although a complete computer novice in 1982, had quickly discovered that "what we've stumbled on here is a democracy of information — a revolution planned by no one but which promises dramatic, if unforeseeable, results." He points out that, throughout history, information has been power, and those in control have always guarded the source and use of information jealously. Consumers now have easy access to great amounts of information, and it is that access that will, in the short run, change much of the way we function in technologically advanced nations.

There is, as I've tried to indicate, quite a bit of philosophy in this book. There is also more than a little "practical" information. The book is packed with fact, history, trivia and just downright useful information about turning a home computer into an information gathering device. Chandler shares his experiences about dealing with computer salespeople (skeptically) and purchasing computer software (unbelievable). Besides commenting on such experiences Chandler sets forth some useful "ripoff tipoffs" to help the intimidated consumer cope.

David Chandler has produced an entertaining book that cuts through the jargon and tells the reader what services are out there, how to use them and how to get at them inexpensively. Considering the reasonable cost of *Dialing for Data*, purchasing this book would be a good way to start.

James Moran is the editor of Compu-Syn, *a syndicated news service that specializes in computers and robotics.*

Omni Online Database Directory:

1985 Edition

By Owen Davies and Mike Edelhart
Collier Books, 1985
336 pages; $18.95 (softcover)

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

The amount of information now available to anyone who owns a personal computer and a modem is truly beyond imagination. At the press of a few buttons, you can access all the information contained in more than 150 million books, newspapers and periodicals. There probably isn't a subject on earth that isn't documented in a computer database somewhere.

Ironically, the huge numbers of specialized databases located throughout the world require a database of their own just to list and cross-reference them. If you want to learn something about the sex life of the African Tse Tse fly, there is a database somewhere with the information you need. But how to find it?

The editors of *Omni Online Database Directory* have set out to provide an answer to that question. They've done an excellent job. The original edition published in 1984 proved so popular that they updated and enlarged it with 200 new database reviews. The finished product is a serious reference work that belongs in the library of anyone who uses online databases. It holds information on more than 1,100 different databases.

Opening chapters provide plain language descriptions of online databases, how they work, how they are classified and what equipment you will need to access them. They have also included chapters on such topics as choosing an online service and how much you can expect to pay. A special section covers CompuServe and The Source and the role they play in the world of online databases.

The really impressive part, though, is the directory itself. It is carefully organized into broad topics such as agriculture, biomedicine, business, chemistry, engineering, law, science and technology — a total of over 50 different categories.

In addition to the basic facts about the makeup of the database, individual listings also contain user's comments. These are subjective observations from the book's researchers on ease of use and other non-technical aspects. Also shown in each listing are the vendors who make that database available, as well as the suppliers who compiled the information it contains. Even a brief sampling of these listings makes it quite clear that a great deal of careful research has gone into the compilation of this information.

If you are involved or expect to be involved in online research, *Omni Online Database Directory* is a tool you ought to have.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia, Pa. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

Before You Buy Word Processing Software

By Dona Z. Meilach
Crown Publishers Inc., 1984
195 pages; $8.95 (softcover), $15.95 (hardcover)

Reviewed by Lindsy Van Gelder

Most people who are making the leap from typewriter to computer are overjoyed at the simple novelty of not having to press the carriage return to move to the next line. Knowing what sophisticated features to look for in word processing software takes experience — which many of us unfortunately acquire only after shelling out hundreds of dollars on a program that doesn't meet our needs. To the rescue comes Dona Z. Meilach, contributing editor of *Interface Age* and author of several other computer-related books.

Meilach sensibly notes that you can't just judge a word processor by the number of features it boasts — that the best programs have "an almost ethereal element that defies charting. It is elegance and grace compared to awkwardness and clumsiness." Most people don't need more than 20 percent of the features available in today's market in any case, Meilach adds. But specific features do count, and the author provides her readers with a four-page checklist of all the possible capabilities a program could have, from keyboard templates to proportional spacing. The items in the checklist are then explained in depth.

Meilach wisely doesn't spend much time comparing specific products (if she did, her book would be rendered obsolete pretty fast by new entries and updates), but she does help her readers help themselves. Other parts of the book give similar aid and comfort to those who want to purchase on-board or stand-alone spelling checkers, indexers, keyboard macro programs, mail merge software, even printers and training aids.

I especially liked the way that the book dishes out the sort of inside info one usually gets at a user's group meeting: from how to "flip" a single-sided floppy disk or re-ink printer ribbons to the most foolproof method of ripping fan-fold paper.

On the minus side, the author fails to address what, in my experience, is the question most commonly asked "before you buy word processing software": Do I need to buy an IBM PC or compatible, or will I do just as well on a CP/M machine like the Kaypro? I wish Meilach had talked at least a little about the specialized needs of different types of writers (such as screenplay writers) and about such ever-popular user's group activities as learning how to do assembly language patches to WordStar. (I also wish she hadn't used the pronoun "he" throughout the book. Meilach mentions a program that flags sexist language, but she obviously didn't use it herself.)

But even with its flaws, this book is way ahead of the Peter McWilliams book that up until now has passed as the last word on word processing.

Lindsy Van Gelder has written about IBM PCs and other computers for PC, PC World, PCjr *and other publications. Her CompuServe User ID number is 73125,470.*

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Black Box Modems

Black Box Corp. has introduced the Auto-dial Modem 1200, retailing for $279, and the Manual-dial Modem 1200, selling for $249. Both modems are offered at half the catalog-listed prices.

The Auto-dial Modem 1200 may be used with a dumb terminal or with communication software and stores up to 20 telephone numbers of up to 55 characters each. The Manual-dial Modem 1200 can be used for answering incoming data calls.

For information, contact Black Box Corp., P.O. Box 12800, Pittsburgh, PA 15241; 412/746-5500.

Circle 19 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Take The Express

ASCII Express PRO-DOS from United Software Industries is an updated telecommunications software package that will run exclusively under Apple Computer's new PRO-DOS operating system. It is compatible with all popular modems.

ASCII Express features online help menus, support for baud rates up to 9600, error-free protocol transfers, unattended operations and data buffer. It retails for $129.95.

For information, contact United Software Industries Inc., 1880 Century Park East, Suite 311, Los Angeles, CA 90067; 213/556-2211.

Circle 20 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Easy Modem

The Easy Modem from American National Supply Corp. is a 1200/300-baud modem that sells for $299. The unit connects to virtually any personal computer and features two phone jacks, for voice or data, as well as automatic dialing and answering, dial tone and busy signal detection.

It is compatible with most communications software or can be used with ANSCO's ASCII Express, which is available at a special price of $139.

For information, contact ANSCO, 1243 W. 134th St., Gardena, CA 90247; 800/421-1270 (nationwide) or 800/821-3308 (in California).

Circle 21 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Index It

WordTech Systems Inc. has introduced dBindex for dBase III. The program is a set of utilities that can process dBase III data files much faster than dBase III and is a step toward a compiler for dBase III.

dBindex includes programs to index, sort and pack dBase III data files. Speed of operation is due to direct access of more memory and incorporation of faster algorithms.

For information, contact WordTech Systems Inc., P.O. Box 1747, Orinda, CA 94563; 414/254-0900.

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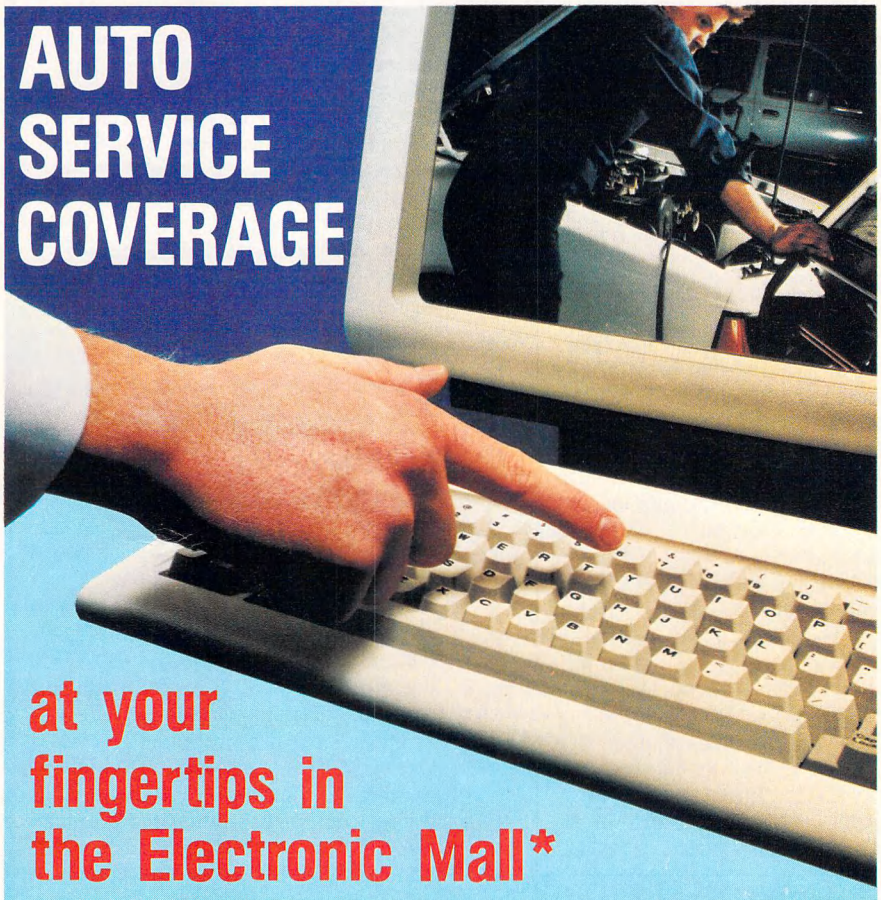

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File Transfer

XTX is a XENIX file transfer utility from Telexpress Inc. The multifunction program permits error-free transfer of files between XENIX systems and other microcomputers and operating systems that use Teleterm software.

During the transfer process, files are automatically converted to a format compatible with the destination station's operating system. Most modems can be used, or communicating systems may be hard-wired, or both.

XTX sells for $150. For information, contact Telexpress Inc., P.O. Box 217, Willingboro, NJ 08046; 609/877-4900.

Circle 24 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Fast Communications

The American National Supply Corp. has introduced two new 2400-baud modems called the Mod 5 and Mod 6 designed to cut data transmission time in half and provide better error checking.

Features include automatic baud speed detection, manual or auto-answer and manual originate. The modems also communicate at 1200 baud. The Mod 6 unit, which sells for $895, features auto-dialing and a 20-address telephone number directory. Individual telephone numbers and log-on can be masked when displayed or locked for security. The Mod 5 retails for $795.

For information, contact ANSCO, 1243 W. 134th St., Gardena, CA 90247; 800/421-1270 (nationwide) or 800/821-3308 (in California).

Circle 25 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Manage The Mail

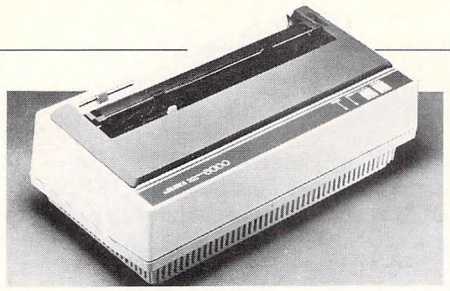
Maurizi Associates has released Version 2.0 of Mailer, a dedicated complete mailing list manager for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PCjr and portable computers as well as IBM compatibles and CP/M-80 systems.

Prestructured, it requires no setup of the database, screen entry form, label and envelope formats or reports. It runs solely from selection menus and prompts.

Data entry uses the fill-in-the-blanks screen form and a new ditto feature for repeat information. Existing ASCII address files can be read in as well. It sells for $150.

For information, contact Maurizi Associates, 1344 Fitch Way, Sacramento, CA 95864; 916/486-2293.

Circle 26 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.



Compact Printer

Juki Office Machine Corp. has introduced a new compact letter-quality printer that retails for $295.

The Juki 6000 weighs in at just 13 pounds with a maximum print speed of 10 cps. It employs a 100-character daisywheel and offers 10-, 12- and 15-pitch printing.

The bi-directional, logic-seeking printing system combines a 9-inch-wide printing area with a smooth friction paper feed. It uses single-strike or fabric ribbons and features a Centronics interface or an RS-232C serial interface.

Circle 27 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Hasty Communications

Communique Corp. has released CQ-Haste and CQ-3780 communications software for the Data General lap-top computer. CQ-Haste uses the HASP (MRJE) protocol, while the CQ-3780 uses the 2780/3780 Binary Synchronous Communications protocol.

These software programs give Data General One users solutions for micro-to-mainframe, micro-to-minicomputer and micro-to-microcomputer communications. Both are menu-driven, have in-context help, local disk commands and a built-in text editor.

For information, contact Communique Corp., 5380 Capital Circle N.W., Tallahassee, FL 32303; 904/562-4255.

Circle 28 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

PC Guardian

PC Guardian from Janrick Associates is an RFI/EMI power surge protection unit for the IBM and other personal computers.

It provides protection from power line surges, spikes up to 20,000 volts, line noise and static discharge that can affect data memory. The all-metal PC Guardian is designed to aesthetically enhance the PC computer system, provide better access to disk drives and improved monitor viewing.

In addition, the $99 unit protects the computer from dust, coffee spills and other office hazards. For information, contact Janrick Associates, P.O. Box 361782, Melbourne, FL 32936.

Circle 31 on the Reader Service card or GO EBB.

Recipe Writer

The Recipe Writer from At-Your-Service Software Inc. is a sophisticated recipe management system that retails for $79.

The program allows users to maintain thousands of recipes, add, browse, delete and update at the touch of a key, create customized cross references for categories, search by category, convert serving amounts and generate a shopping list.

For information, contact At-Your-Service Software Inc., 309 W. 97th St., New York, NY 10025; 212/866-2186.

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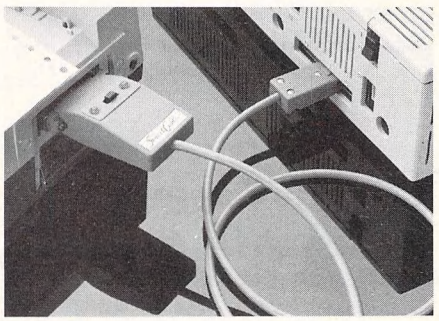

PCjr Smart Cable

IQ Technologies has developed the Model SC807 Smart Cable for the IBM PCjr, which eliminates the need for both a custom cable and a 16-to-25-pin adapter. Using the Smart Cable, the IBM PCjr can be connected to a printer, plotter or modem with a single cable.

The cable converts the PCjr's 16-pin connector to a standard 25-pin serial connector and completes the RS-232 interface. Suggested retail price is $49.95.

For information, contact IQ Technologies Inc., 11811 N.E. First St., Bellevue, WA 98005; 206/451-0232.

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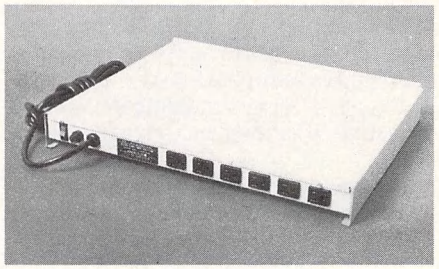

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CompuServe Consumer Information Service subscribers can request information electronically by entering GO EBB at any prompt.

(Please print or type)

Name _____
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A. Occupation
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2. ☐ Computer professional/technician
3. ☐ Other professional
4. ☐ Teacher/instructor
5. ☐ Sales
6. ☐ Skilled labor
7. ☐ Student
8. ☐ Other (specify) _____

B. Interest in computer is for:
1. ☐ Business 2. ☐ Personal 3. ☐ Both

C. Brand of personal computer interested in:
1. ☐ IBM 4. ☐ Apple 6. ☐ Hewlett-Packard
2. ☐ DEC 5. ☐ Radio Shack 7. ☐ Commodore
3. ☐ Atari 8. ☐ Other (Specify) _____

D. I am interested in the following product:
1. ☐ Business Information Services
2. ☐ Consumer Information Services
3. ☐ Electronic Mail/conferencing
4. ☐ Communications Software
5. ☐ Modems
6. ☐ Word processors
7. ☐ Database management software
8. ☐ Integrated Software
9. ☐ Local Area Networks
10. ☐ Computer Books/Publications
11. ☐ Peripherals (specify) _____
12. ☐ Other (specify) _____

E. I plan to spend the following dollar amount on computer products within the next year:
1. ☐ $1-$999
2. ☐ $1,000-$4,999
3. ☐ $5,000-$9,999
4. ☐ $10,000-$19,999
5. ☐ $20,000-$49,999
6. ☐ $50,000-$99,999
7. ☐ $100,000-or more

Circle inquiry number from this issue only.

1	21	41	61	81
2	22	42	62	82
3	23	43	63	83
4	24	44	64	84
5	25	45	65	85
6	26	46	66	86
7	27	47	67	87
8	28	48	68	88
9	29	49	69	89
10	30	50	70	90
11	31	51	71	91
12	32	52	72	92
13	33	53	73	93
14	34	54	74	94
15	35	55	75	95
16	36	56	76	96
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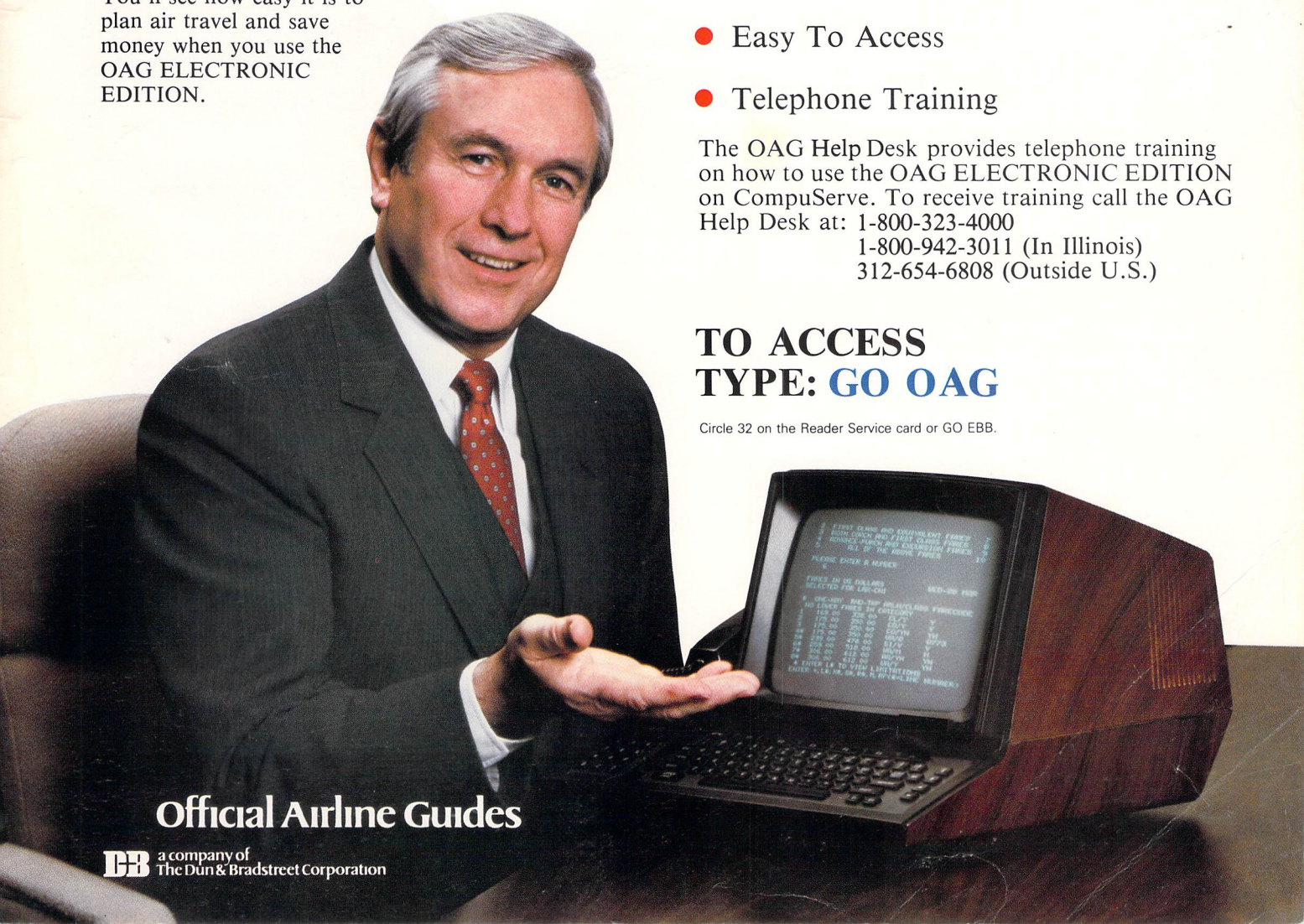

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